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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022

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Krishna and Godavari rivers continue to be in spate
page 7

Aviation safety regulator opens door for transgender pilots
page 10

Former U.S. President Trump remains silent during questioning
page 13

Anand says India has very good bench strength in men
page 15

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NEARBY

No relief for teacher who shamed child in class

BENGALURU

The High Court has declined to interfere with criminal proceedings initiated against a teacher for punishing a five-year-old girl child by pulling down her pants in front of other children in a private school in Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

Justice Lalit is 49th CJI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Wednesday after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment. He will assume charge on August 27, a day after Justice N.V. Ramana demits office as CJI. Justice Lalit will have a brief tenure of less than three months.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

To boost spending, Centre releases ₹1.16 lakh cr. to States

Two-month dues in one go to ease constraints after end of GST compensation

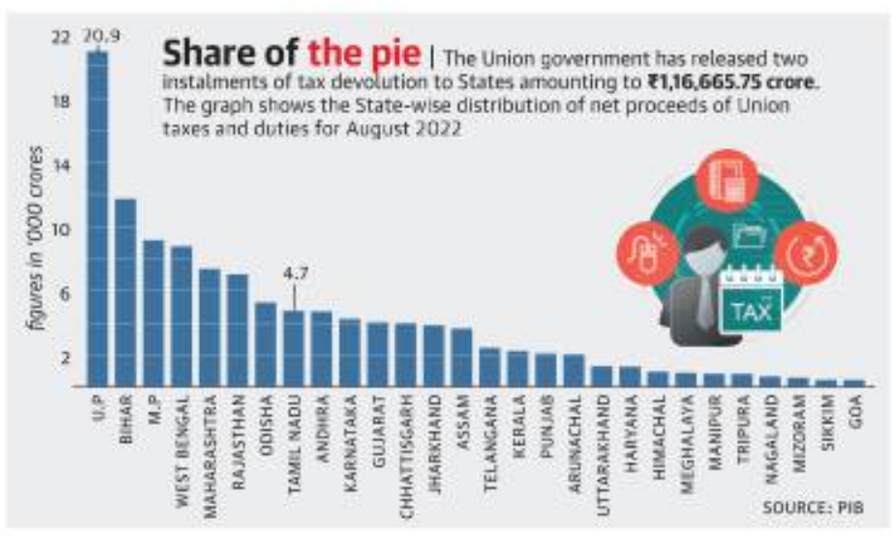
VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday released over ₹1.16 lakh crore to the States, equivalent to two monthly instalments of tax devolution, to help front-load State governments' capital spending abilities in this financial year.

Coming soon after the expiry of the assured Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation to States from this July, economists expect the move to give the States twice the monthly share of net proceeds of Union taxes and duties for August to bolster their cash flows and nudge them into planning and executing capital expenditure (capex) outlays.

The development assumes significance as some Chief Ministers raised concerns about their dwindling resources and sought more funds from the Centre through extension of the GST compensation period and a higher share in the divisible pool of taxes, at NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7.

As against a "normal monthly devolution" of ₹58,332.86 crore, the Finance Ministry said ₹1,16,665.75 crore had been released "in line with the commitment of the Government of India to strengthen the hands of States to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure".



'Buoyant revenues'

"Tax revenues have been buoyant so this is a good move from the Centre to provide an incentive for States to push discretionary spending, which is largely on capital investment projects," Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis noted.

"In the last two years, we have seen States hold back a bit on such spending to meet their committed expenses such as salaries and pensions first. With more funds at their disposal now, they can consider such discretionary spends," he said, adding that such front-loading of tax devolutions might not recur in the coming months.

In 2021-22, a large part of the upside in tax devolution was paid out to States in the fourth quarter of the year, which ended up reducing State government borrowings for that period but did not translate to higher spending.

Rating agency ICRA anticipates the Central tax devolution to be "as large as" ₹9.3 lakh crore this year, compared to the ₹8.2 lakh crore estimated in the Budget, on the back of higher non-excise tax revenues. It estimated that a total of ₹3.18 lakh crore has been devolved to States in the first five months of this year, about 39% of Budget estimates.

The higher-than-expected devolution this year warrants an early reassessment of the monthly amounts being shared with the States to enable them to boost their capital spending, given the lead time required to plan and execute such projects, the firm noted earlier.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Nitish, Tejashwi take oath, Cabinet expansion soon

CM says he won't be heading the government in 2024

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar and Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal as the Deputy Chief Minister on Wednesday, in a reprise of 2015, when they were sworn in together only to part ways in 2017.

Governor Phagu Chouhan administered the oath of office at the Raj Bhavan here.

After the function, Mr. Yadav touched the feet of Mr. Kumar.

Earlier, his mother, Rabri Devi, told presspersons that "everything has been forgiven". She was referring to Mr. Kumar joining hands with the BJP to form a government after parting ways with the RJD in 2017.

"The oath-taking of other Ministers may happen in a day or two, before the inauspicious month of *Kharwans*, which begins on August 12," a senior RJD leader said.

If party sources are to be believed, there would be 16 Cabinet Ministers, including Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap, from the RJD. It is said that 13 JD(U) leaders would join the Cabinet.

Leaders of all seven *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance, parties were present.

Talking to presspersons after taking the oath, Mr. Kumar said he would not be there as Chief Minister in 2024. "What will happen I do not know, but this is sure that I'll not be here in 2024," he said, throwing enough indications that he would prefer to be part of national politics by that time.

Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Kumar said, "In 2014, he became PM, but only time will tell whether he would remain there in 2024 or not."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
EDITORIAL ▸ PAGE 8

Back together: Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav after taking oath at the Raj Bhavan in Patna on Wednesday. • PTI

Nitish wanted to be V-P, says Sushil Modi

BJP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday said that it was "false propaganda and white lies" that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had not proposed the name of former Janata Dal (U) leader R.C.P. Singh for a Union Cabinet berth. Mr. Modi said Mr. Kumar wanted to become the Vice-President. ▸ PAGE 11

SC to take up plea to ban convicts from polls for life

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would consider a plea seeking a lifetime ban on people convicted of offences from contesting elections and becoming MPs and MLAs.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, said "even a constable can lose his job after conviction". The Centre, in an affidavit filed in 2020, maintained in court that disqualification under the Representation of the People Act of 1951 for the period of prison sentence and six years thereafter was enough for legislators.

On Wednesday, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, the court's *amicus curiae*, however, said a convicted MP or MLA could come back after the six-year ban and make laws.

In its affidavit in December 2020, the Ministry had rejected the idea of a lifetime ban on convicted persons contesting elections or forming or becoming an office-bearer of a political party. The Ministry had reasoned that MPs and MLAs were not bound by specific "service conditions". "They are bound by their oath to serve citizens and country... They are bound by propriety, good conscience and interest of the nation," the Ministry had argued. The Centre had attempted to buttress its case last year by citing a Constitution Bench decision in the Public Interest Foundation case of 2019, which said "though criminalisation of politics is a bitter manifest truth, which is a termite to the citadel of democracy, be that as it may, the court cannot make the law".

Government to remove airfare bands from August 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Passengers booking last-minute flight tickets can expect lower airfares as the government has removed its mandatory airfare bands for tickets booked 15 days in advance.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation in a circular on Wednesday said, "It has been decided to remove the fare bands with effect from August 31, 2022." When domestic flights resumed on May 25, 2020 after the first nationwide lockdown, the government imposed minimum and maximum airfares domestic airlines could charge based on flight duration for all flights. The minimum airfare prescribed intended to protect airlines from competition offering cheap flight tickets to attract passengers at a time of reduced demand, and a price cap aimed to ensure airlines did not fleece passengers.

Last September, this requirement was relaxed and the fare bands were restricted only for the tickets booked for travel within the next 15 days.

"The decision has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel," Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted.

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in heinous crimes

3,140 The number of heinous crime cases reported in Delhi till July 15 2022, a 13% rise compared to the corresponding period last year, according to Delhi Police data. showed. The number of heinous crime cases in the first six months of 2021 were 2,790. The national capital witnessed 277 cases of murder, an almost 18% rise from the 235 cases in 2021. In the category of non-heinous cases, house theft incidents have increased by 553% from 1,158 in 2021 to 7,561 in 2022. PTI

Missing monuments

24 The number of monuments and sites in India that are "untraceable". Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha that 210 thefts, involving 486 objects were reported from centrally-protected monuments/sites located in 19 States/UTs since independence. Recovery of stolen objects is an ongoing process and 91 objects have been recovered so far. The Archaeological Survey of India has surveyed 8,478 villages in the last eight years and found 2,914 antiquarian remains. PTI

Aiding Ukraine

5.5 In $ billion, the additional aid the U.S. will send Ukraine, with $4.5 billion in budgetary support and $1 billion in military assistance, to help the country overcome the turmoil of the Russian invasion. The grant will fund urgent government needs including payments for pensions, social welfare and healthcare costs, bringing the total U.S. fiscal aid to $8.5 billion. The funding, coordinated with the U.S. Treasury Department through the World Bank, will reach the Ukraine government in tranches. REUTERS

Virus prone habitats

500 In million, the number of people in South Asia living near habitats where bats host SARS-related coronaviruses, according to research published by *Nature* Communications. About 66,000 people in this region are infected each year with the same. The research focussed on 26 species of bats in a region of 5.1 million square kilometres stretching from China to Southeast and South Asia. The study said that viral transmission from bats to humans may have been "substantially underestimated". REUTERS

Investments plummet

69 The percentage by which the investments by private equity and venture capital funds into Indian entities plummeted in July, according to a report by industry lobby Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA) and consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY). The investments in July ($3 billion) are the lowest for any month in a year, and lower than the $4.9 billion recorded across 118 deals in the preceding month of June. Only 74 deals were recorded in July 2022, as against the 134 deals in the year-ago period. PTI

EXPLAINER

The new U.S. Bill on climate action

Does the new Bill completely leave out fossil fuel industries? What are the listed incentives to switch to clean energy?

THE GIST

- On August 7, the U.S. Senate approved a bill titled the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022. The IRA has a special focus on climate, healthcare, and tax provisions to address inflation.
- The Bill marks the largest American investment aimed toward making the U.S. a leader in clean energy. It provides a tax deduction to low and middle-income households to go electric and seeks to lower the energy bills of U.S. households. For disadvantaged low-income communities and tribal communities, the Bill provides funding to benefit from zero-emission technologies. It also imposes a fee on methane leaks from oil and gas drilling.
- However, climate advocates criticise the bill for coupling the development of renewable energy, which is the cause of global warming, with land leasing for oil and gas drilling.

AKRITI SHARMA

The story so far: On August 7, the U.S. Senate approved a Bill titled the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022, with a simple majority of 51 to 50. Vice President Kamala Harris cast her tie-breaking vote to aid the approval after the Senate was evenly divided. Even though all Republicans opposed the bill, the Democrats pushed through after a long debate taking advantage of the budget reconciliation process. The bill is a scaled-down version of President Biden's Build Back Better Act (BBBA), which failed to get approval from the Senate. The IRA has a special focus on climate, healthcare, and tax provisions to address inflation.

What are the climate change provisions?
The Bill marks the largest American investment aimed toward making the U.S. a leader in clean energy. It includes packages worth $369 billion for the clean energy transition.

It provides a tax deduction to low and middle-income households to go electric and seeks to lower the energy bills of American households. It also aims to bolster the domestic production of heat pumps and critical minerals. For disadvantaged low-income communities and tribal communities, the Bill provides funding to benefit from zero-emission technologies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and mitigate risks from extreme heat.

The Bill provides significant investment in renewable energy through heavy tax credits for wind and solar energy projects and electric vehicles. Additionally, the Bill imposes a tax on the largest and most profitable companies in order that they pay their fair share, without levying any taxes on households with income less than $40,000 per annum.

It also imposes a fee on methane leaks from oil and gas drilling.

At the same time, the Bill also aims at more investments in fossil fuels.

It seeks to expand oil and gas drilling, with the federal government offering land for onshore and offshore drilling as a prerequisite for developing renewable energy. Thus, it handcuffs the expansion of oil and gas with renewable energy development.

Why does the U.S. want to invest in addressing climate change?
The U.S is currently facing extreme climate threats. This includes heatwaves, wildfires, cyclones, floods, and hurricanes that have become frequent and intense in the past few years. The ongoing floods in Kentucky triggered by heavy rainfall and the wildfires in California induced by dry lightning have become a major concern for the country. There is a link between extreme weather events and climate change.

Climate advocates criticise the bill for coupling the development of renewable energy, which is the cause of global warming, with land leasing for oil and gas drilling

Additionally, President Joe Biden has also undertaken certain climate commitments. Climate action has been a priority since he came into office. In 2021, he committed to the new ambitious target of cutting emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030 and signed a new methane deal to curb methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. He introduced the Build Back Better plan which was a multi-trillion deal with key provisions for climate change.

In May 2022, the Biden administration revoked the Alaska oil and gas drilling lease sales in the backdrop of soaring fuel prices, a move that is consistent with its climate commitment.

Why are Republicans opposing the Bill?
The legislation faced criticism not only from Republicans but also from a section within the Democrats along with fossil fuel supporters, and climate advocates.

The Republicans tried to delay the passage of the Bill in the Senate by introducing numerous amendments that criticised the Bill for its inability to curb inflation. All the amendments introduced failed except the one introduced by Senator John Thune on the exemption of some businesses from the minimum corporate tax. Democrat Senator Kyrsten Sinema supported John Thune's amendment to support her state Arizona's business-friendly approach.

Within the Democrats, the party had to agree to some policy changes. Senator Joe Manchin was the major reason behind the failure of President Biden's BBBA in the Senate earlier. However, after constant deliberations, he agreed to support the current version which has more focus on reducing deficits.

Fossil fuel supporters criticise the bill as it does not take into account the communities that are dependent on the fossil fuel industry for their income. A protest by the workers of a coal plant in the state of West Virginia was recorded after their own Senator Joe Manchin agreed to back the bill.

Climate advocates criticise the bill for coupling the development of renewable energy, which is the cause of global warming, with land leasing for oil and gas drilling. The Bill still contains giveaways to the fossil fuel sector.

How does the Bill help the U.S. achieve its climate targets?
The Bill being the largest-ever investment in addressing the climate crisis in U.S. history, will help the nation get closer to its climate target of reducing 50-52% emissions below 2005 levels by 2030.

According to an estimate by the Rhodium Group, the investments in the Bill could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 31 to 44% by 2030.

The Bill can help the U.S. compete with China in terms of renewable production as China is a leading producer of solar energy. It can also facilitate the creation of domestic jobs.

Thus, the Bill can prove to be a turning point for global climate action as the U.S. is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases globally. However, it does not address any issues of global climate finance which is a major impediment to global climate action. It is a mere step toward achieving the climate target agreed upon in the Paris Agreement, where Article 2 states global temperature should be limited below 2°C.

Even though the Bill is not enough to address the climate crisis, such historic initiatives by global leaders in greenhouse gas emissions can be a benchmark for other large emitters to push their climate action programmes.

Have similar climate packages been announced by other countries?
In May 2022, Japan announced its 'Invest in Kisida' plan which aims for a $1.1 trillion investment to bolster the Japanese economy. As part of the plan, the country aims to transition to clean energy and achieve 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In June 2021, the European Union (EU) proposed a similar 'Fit for 55' plan to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030. The plan is expected to become law soon. Being the largest emitters, both the U.S. and the EU can play a significant role in taking responsibility for historical emissions.

Akriti Sharma is a doctoral scholar at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

Time running out: A horizontal drilling rig on a lease operates at sunrise near Midland, Texas, U.S. on August 24, 2018. • REUTERS

EXPLAINER

The uproar over the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Why are States alleging that the proposed Bill is unconstitutional? Who are the main opponents of the Bill?

A. M. JIGEESH

The story so far: Ignoring the objections of the Opposition, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the trade unions, the Union Power Ministry introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha on August 8. Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said at the stage of introduction that the Bill could be moved to the Energy Standing Committee of Parliament for broader consultations. "My simple submission is that this entire matter will be discussed in the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee has representatives from all the parties," Mr. Singh said. The Opposition questioned the introduction of the Bill. They alleged that the Centre is breaching the promise given to SKM that the Bill will not be brought to Parliament. The Opposition MPs said the Bill is not just anti-farmer, but also anti-Constitutional and against the interest of States. The basis of their argument was that the Bill may lead to ending subsidies for farmers and poor consumers.

What is the history of the Bill?
The Electricity Bill was brought for the first time and passed in Parliament in 2003, when A. B. Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The intention was to consolidate the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity. The Act also offered to protect the interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalisation of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies etc. The Act resulted in privatisation of distributing companies. It was amended in 2007 by the UPA Government, apparently under pressure from the Left parties. The provisions for "cross subsidy" – ensuring subsidy to poor households was added to the Bill in 2007. There were attempts to amend the Bill further in 2014, 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021. While the 2014 Bill was cleared by the Standing Committee on Energy, it could not be passed in the House as the Centre wanted to revise it. None of the other draft Bills came to Parliament as the Centre was not satisfied with the primary response it received after consultations with stakeholders. All of those Bills remained in their draft form.

Why is there opposition to the Bill?
The opposition to the Bill is primarily from farmers' groups as they fear that the Bill will lead to stopping subsidies and

Telangana Power Employees protesting the Bill on August 8. • RAMAKRISHNA G

that power distribution will thereafter be under the control of private companies. The workers in the power sector also oppose the Bill citing that privatisation of distribution companies and generating units will result in job losses. When the Central trade unions started a campaign against the Act, the SKM pledged support. The Opposition parties questioned the Bill on federalist principles. RSP MP N. K. Premachandran said in the House that power or electricity is a subject which comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution, and that the Centre should have consulted the States before bringing the Bill. Congress MP Manish Tewari said the Bill paves way for privatisation of profits and the nationalisation of losses. DMK's T.R. Baalu asked what will happen to poor farmers who are getting subsidised power in States like Tamil Nadu.

What are the main amendments to the Act?
Compared to the drafts of 2020 and 2021, the Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill of 2022 has a number of changes. The main change among them could be the proposal for the Centre's intervention in the area of power distribution, a domain under the State governments. Such provisions can be seen in clauses 5, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 23 of the Bill. Clause 5 amends Section 14 of the parent Act that deals with the criteria for electricity distributors. The amendment empowers the Central Government to prescribe the criteria.

Another clause that causes worry for those who oppose the Bill is Clause 11, which seeks to amend section 42 of the principal Act to facilitate operation of multiple distribution licensees in the same area and to avoid parallel network and optimise usage of the distribution network. Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy said such a provision will create a situation similar to the telecom sector where monopoly companies will destroy the public sector and smaller networks.

Similarly, Clause 13 seeks to amend section 60 of the principal Act to enable management of power purchase and cross subsidy in case of multiple distribution licensees in the same area of supply. It says in case of issuance of licence to more than one distribution licensee in an area of supply, the State Government shall set up a cross subsidy balancing fund which shall be managed by a government company.

What lies ahead?
The trade unions in the power sector held a one-day strike against the Bill. They are also discussing the possibilities for an indefinite strike. The SKM is also stepping up its agitations. The Energy Standing Committee will soon start its deliberations on the Bill. The panel is currently headed by senior JD(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh. JD(U) called off its alliance with the BJP on Tuesday. Though the BJP can claim a majority in the committee, the chairman's stand will be important when Bills like this are taken up for discussion.

THE GIST

- The Union Power Ministry introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha on August 8.
- The Bill is opposed by farmers' groups as they fear that the Bill will lead to stopping subsidies and that power distribution will thereafter be under the control of private companies. Opposition parties questioned the Bill on federalist principles as electricity is a subject which comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
- One of main changes in the Bill is the proposal for the Centre's intervention in the area of power distribution, a domain under the State governments.

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Brookfield residents fix civic issues through crowdfunding

MLA says crowdsourcing can be done, but it is not a parallel administration

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

The Brookefield Layout Residents Association fixed the waterway through crowdfunding. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In May 2022, after heavy rains, residents of Brookefield Layout in Marathahalli, East Bengaluru, had to deal with waterlogged roads. Cut to the present and the residents do not have to face the same problem, and they have themselves to thank. Crowdfunding carried out by the resident welfare association to build a privately funded storm water drain (SWD) resolved the flooding problem permanently.

In the last few years, around 1,500 families living in the Brookefield Layout have been crowdfunding to solve various civic infrastructure issues without waiting for the civic agencies to act. This, they say, is because multi-agency work will take a long time to be implemented. So, the residents themselves coordinate with the respective civic agencies and finish the infrastructure work.

The umbrella association of the residents, Brookefield Layout Residents Association, has built footpaths, placed manholes wherever required, fixed streetlights, and erected bollards with crowdfunding. They have also done regular drain and street cleaning using workers hired by the association, who are also paid by the residents. Three sweepers and one supervisor work in the locality every day to keep the area clean and are paid through crowdfunding.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Arvind Keerthi, lead organiser of Brookefields Layout Residents, said: "We residents have taken up crowdfunding and are working to build basic infrastructure in our locality since 2014 not because the civic agency will not implement it, but because they will take time to do it since they have to coordinate with various other agencies."

"We are happy to see that most of the basic work has been completed in the area, due to which there are no issues in our locality," Mr. Keerthi said, while adding that the civic agency is also encouraging this and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently spent ₹1 crore to construct a new road. "For big projects like this, we depend on the civic body. But we sort smaller issues on our own," he said. The residents say their crowdfunding efforts are a form of "local taxation," which is more transparent and ensures accountability as the residents of the locality are more aware of the problems than local political leaders. "If the residents take collective responsibility for public property, we can fix problems and avoid civic issues. Crowdsourcing is empowering," added Mr. Keerthi.

Meanwhile, Aravind Limbavali, Mahadevapura MLA, said crowdsourcing by the residents can be done, but it is not a parallel administration. "The residents have also taken funds from the Mahadevapura Task Force for civic works. Various government agencies will help the citizens to get the civic infrastructure work to be done in their area. Crowdsourcing can be an experiment to coordinate with civic authorities," Mr. Limbavalli said.

Rush at vehicle service centres as monsoon gathers pace

Potholes, inundated roads, and basements trouble owners

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

With monsoon gaining pace and subsequent waterlogging, tyre care and vehicle service and repair centres in the city are seeing an increase in demand. Most of them get at least 10 puncture cases a day, while some others are engine-related problems. On the other hand, citizens are not happy as they have to bear additional charges mostly due to the condition of the roads.

Most people end up at tyre centres after their vehicles skid on the slippery roads. "They usually would not have realised that the tyre is in bad condition, but when they drive on wet roads, they skid and then they realise there is some fault with the tyres," said an employee at a tyre centre on Langford Road. He said that in summer, people usually get their tyres replaced as heat makes them prone to punctures, but during rainy season, they are mostly accidental punctures.

Another mechanic, Manjunath in Malleswaram, said that potholes on roads are also a danger for tyre health in monsoon. "Sharp objects or nails can accumulate inside the potholes due to natural factors. If roads are flooded and the cars slip into one of these potholes, they could end up with punctures," he said.

The cost to fix puncture is usually between ₹50 to ₹150 at the care centres depending on the vehicle. For replacement of wheels, they charge ₹1,200 to ₹3,000 for two-wheelers, and from ₹7,000 to ₹8,000 per wheel to ₹50,000 depending on the car as well as the preferred tyre brand.

"I left in a hurry for a meeting on Friday and a few metres away from home, I realised I had a punctured tyre. The previous day, I had driven through flooded roads and even the roads near my house are in a bad condition with potholes. The mechanic removed two big nails from the rear tyre and suggested that I change my tyres. I ended up spending ₹25,000 for two rear tyres," said Sourav R., a resident of Jalahalli.

When water enters cars, they end up with engine troubles, which also costs thousands of rupees to owners. In other cases, in flooded areas, if the owners do not move their cars to dry areas, it leads to brake-related problems. "If cars remain in water, it results in rust formation and thus causing brake and engine problems. This is why we advise our customers to always move their car to safety. Drivers should also ensure that they do not turn off and start the cars when it is in water to avoid damage to the engine," said an employee of a service centre in Kodigehalli.

"I had parked my car in the underground garage of my residential building and had gone on an overnight trip. I returned to a flooded garage. I had to pay ₹40,000 to replace the engine. Every time it rains, we lodge complaints with the BBMP, but it is of no use. Why should we bear the extra cost?, asked Prashanth N., resident of Amruthahalli.

THE HINDU

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Delimitation: High Court notice to govt. on petitions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a batch of petitions questioning the correctness of delimitation of wards of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the order on the separate petitions filed by Shantinagar Block Congress Committee, S. Ismail Zabiulla, S.D. Gururaj, and others. Further hearing on the petitions has been adjourned till August 22.

One of the main contentions in the petitions is that the division of wards are contrary to the Section 7(1((b) of the BBMP Act, 2020, which states that wards shall be divided within the constituency of a member of Legislative Assembly and no wards shall be spread over to constituencies.

Many of the new wards are split into multiple portions, which fall within the physical boundaries of other Assembly constituencies contrary to Section 7(1)(b) of the Act, it was pointed out in the petitions.

The splitting of wards has been done arbitrarily, without any rational basis, and are completely impractical, and the wards are delimited into odd boundary shapes and geographical areas, resulting in citizens being required to travel long distances for basic civic requirements and public participation, it was contended in the petition filed by Mr. Gururaj, a resident of KSRTC Layout.

It was contended in the petitions that the delimitation exercise is based on population data from the 2011 census, which is outdated and inaccurate, as of today, due to the exponential increase in population by over 61% since 2011.

Wards are created with political bias as number of wards are increased under the Assembly constituencies represented by the ruling party members, and in the wards like Chamarajpet the number of wards had been reduced by one though population per ward has seen steep rise, it was alleged in the petition filed by Mr. Zabiulla, an advocate and aspirant for BBMP council elections.

"The process of inclusion and exclusion of area with respect to wards is not scientific and comprehensive as it creates confusion and difficulties in the minds of people besides creating administrative obstacles. Delimitation carried out is not in good faith and it was only with a view to gain political advantage for a particular party, which is ruling the State," the Shantingar Block Congress Committee alleged in its petition.

Pvt. sector employees cannot register new vehicles under BH series in State

Notification issued with 'partial modification' excludes private sector employees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It is official: The State government has decided not to allow employees working in the private sector to register their new vehicles under 'Bharat Series' (BH Series).

A notification with partial modification issued by the Transport Department on August 4 states that officers of the All India Services, employees of the Central Government in the post of inter-State transfer, officers working in banks, and officials/employees working in central government undertaking can register their vehicles under BH Series. There is no reference about private sector employees. The department has made partial modification to the notification that was issued on November 30, 2021.

The move is expected to upset employees working in the private sector.

The Central government had implemented BH Series registration with effect from September 15, 2021. As per the notification brought out by the Central government, BH Series registration will ease transfer of vehicles when employees of Central government/State government/Public Sector Undertakings, and private sector companies having offices in four or more States relocate from one State to another. One registration number is valid throughout the country.

- The Central government had implemented the 'Bharat Series' registration with effect from September 15, 2021.

Vehicle taxes

Recently, in his reply to the question raised by the MPs in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said: "Owner of the vehicle registered under BH Series is required to pay vehicle taxes every two years or in multiples of it to the State where it is located during that period, at 25% higher than the uniform rate as notified. In order to facilitate seamless transfer of such vehicles, BH Series is helpful not only to citizens but also in reducing the burden of RTOs which deal with such vehicle transfers."

In the country, 24 States and Union Territories have started the registration of vehicles under the BH Series. In Karnataka, a total of 2,063 vehicles are registered under the BH Series, out of which, only eight are people working in the private sector.

Reasons for exclusion

The Transport Department officials say allowing registration under BH Series for private sector employees would result in revenue loss to the exchequer. An official of the department said that in the State, lifetime tax collected while registering private vehicles is 13% for cars costing below ₹5 lakh, 14% for cars ranging from ₹5 to ₹10 lakh, 17% for ₹10 to ₹20 lakh, and 18% for cars above ₹20 lakh. Under the BH Series, three slabs are fixed: 8% for vehicles below ₹10 lakh, 10% for vehicles ranging from ₹10 to ₹20 lakh, and 12% for vehicles above ₹20 lakh. For diesel vehicles, the tax is 2% extra, while it is 2% less for electric vehicles. The taxes under BH Series is levied for two years or in multiples of two.

The official said: "As per our calculation, if 1,000 private vehicles are registered in each tax slab under BH Series, we would incur loss of ₹22 crore. There are other issues also; employees working in private sector do not stick to a single company and it is difficult to establish as their organisation has offices in multiple States. Monitoring the violations is not an easy task. We have apprised these matters to the State government."

Gaurav Gupta is in-charge MD of K-RIDE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Senior IAS officer Gaurav Gupta will be the in-charge managing director of Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE). A notification said that Mr. Gupta will hold the post with immediate effect and till a new MD is selected.

One held in inter-State bike theft case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Chickpet traffic police unearthed an inter-State bike theft case and arrested a person driving a stolen scooter from Tamil Nadu on Wednesday.

The accused, Yaseenulla Khan, was intercepted by PSI Anjanamurthy and head constable Ananthkumar when he was riding the scooter without helmet. The police found that the documents had details of a different registration number. Yaseen confessed that he had borrowed the stolen bike from his friend from Tamil Nadu.

Case against man who cheated KAS aspirant

He made away with ₹59.5 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vijaynagar police have registered a cheating case against a 32-year-old conman who, claiming to be a close acquaintance of bureaucrats, cheated a KAS aspirant and made away with ₹59.5 lakh this month.

The victim, Savitha Shantappa Yalasangikar from Afzalpur, was preparing for competitive exams and staying in a PG accommodation.

Ms. Savitha in her complaint said that the accused, identified as Siddaraju Subhasha Chandra Kattimani, was introduced to her her through a common friend who offered to get her good marks in the KAS exam and also get a tahsildar post using his clout in the government. He also demanded a huge sum of money to get the job done Ms. Savitha discussed this with her father, who pledged his land to get a loan of and gave Kattimani a total sum of ₹59.5 lakh on different dates.

The fraud came to light when the accused started demanding for money claiming that he needs to give it to different people. Suspecting something amiss, Ms. Savitha asked him to return the money. The accused not only refused to do so, but threatened her with dire consequences.

HC notice on plea seeking to prescribe penalty for BBMP officials failing to prevent illegal construction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered notice to the State government on a PIL petition seeking direction to prescribe punishments for jurisdictional officers who fail to prevent unauthorised deviations or constructions under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, 2020. A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on the petition filed by Umapathi S., a city-based advocate.

The petitioner has pointed out that Section 252 of the BBMP Act states that the jurisdictional officer who is proved to have failed to prevent unauthorised deviation or construction that have taken place in his jurisdiction shall be liable for such punishment as may be prescribed.

However, penal action against the officers cannot be initiated without prescribing the punishment by enacting the rules, the petitioner said, while emphasising immediate need to prescribe punishment by enacting rules for organised growth of the city.

The petitioner has pointed out the government in 2019 had framed rules prescribing penalty for officials for their failure to prevent unauthorised constructions under Section 321-B of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, only after he filed a PIL petition in 2018.

BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, AT BANGALORE
CMP/ 220430 / 0009402

Between:
Mr. Sunil Suresh and Shubha Sunil
....Complainants
and
M/s. Rocklines Housing Development Pvt. Ltd.
...Respondents

To,
A) M/s. Rockline Housing Development Private Limited
A Company Incorporated under the Companies Act,
Having its registered office at: No. 9/2, Rocklines House, Museum Road, Bangalore - 560001
B) Mr. K.S. RAMESH
S/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at: Hite House Apartments, R.T Nagar Bangalore- 560032
C) Mrs. SUNITHA BHATNAGAR
W/o Mr. Deepak Bhatnagar
D/o Late K.S. Prakash
Grand Daughter of Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at #21/5
3rd Main, K.M.H. Block
R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032
D) Mrs. JAYAMMA
W/o Late Ramaswamy
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at No. 526, "ADITYA HOUSE" 4th cross, II Block, R.T. Nagar
Bangalore - 560032
E) Mrs. KANTHAMMA
W/o Mr. Late. Chowdaiah
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
T.S.R. West, S-3,
Opp: Arogya Kendra
Residing at No. 80,
Cholanayakanahalli
Bangalore - 560032
F) MRS RANGANAYAKAMMA
W/o Mr. K.C. Chowdappa
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasala
Residing at No. 42/177-25, M.B.O. Colony
Cuddapah - 516002
G) Mrs. LAKSHMI KUNDA
W/o Late Gopal Das
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at No. 40, Hallard Drive Pittsburg, TA 15238.
United States of America
H) Mrs. VANAJAKSHI
W/o Mr. Venkateshmaiah
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at No.G-2, RR Towers,2nd cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar
Hebbal - Kempapura
Bangalore - 560024
I) Mrs. SAROJA
W/o Mr. M. Prabhakar
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at Flat No.G-2
Silver Manor Apartments
No. 14, M.M. Layout, AMC Main Road, Kavalbairasandra
R.T. Nagar Post
Bangalore - 560098
J) Mrs. SEETHALAKSHMI
W/o Mr. P.M. Venkatarathnam
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
Residing at No.3/47, II Floor, K. Bhaskar Reddy Bldg.,For Rocklines Housing Development Pvt. Ltd. Near Juadamuni Veedhi ,Puttaparathi Post
Anantpur District, Andra Pradesh
K) Mrs. BHARATHI
W/o Mr. Gurulinga
D/o Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
No.137/5, Flat No 204
3rd Floor, New TATA Nagar
Water Tank Kodigehalli
Sahakaranagar Post
Bangalore - 560092
L) Mrs. SHOBHA SUJIT
W/o Mr. Sujit Mukund
D/0 Late Kasetty Sreenivasalu
SF-10, SNEHA SINDHU APARTMENTS No.25, AMC Main Road, Kavalbairasandra,
Bangalore - 560032

Whereas, the Complainants have filed the above-mentioned Complaint claiming a refund of INR. 10,20,00,000/- (Indian National Rupees Ten Crores Twenty Lakhs only) along with interest calculated at the rate of 10.50 percent per annum from the date of the agreement till the date of actual refund.

Whereas, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble Authority that you cannot be served in the ordinary way of service of summons.

You all are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court in personor by a pleader duly instructed on 26/08/2022 at 11.30 AM to answer the claim, failing which the Complaint will be heard and disposed of ex parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Residential Apartment measuring 6180 Sq. Ft. super built up area with additional sit out area comprised of on the 16th Floor in complex known as **"Rocklines Seethalakshmi"** along with undivided share of Land of 1452 sqft, constructed on the property being a portion of the Composite Property bearing Corporation No. 21 (Old No. 37), 22 and 22/1. (Old Municipal No. 38), situated in Kasturba Road, Bangalore, measuring 25106.954 square feet and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and the property bounded as follows:
EAST BY: Private Property
WEST BY: Private Property
NORTH BY: Kasturba Main Road,
SOUTH BY: Private Property

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 2022.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Place : Bangalore
Date : 11.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Sri. SUNIL KUMAR.D**, S/o. Sri. Devaraju, aged about 23 years, r/at. No.48, Nandikeshwara Nilaya, Bagalur Road, Prosper City Layout, VTC, Budigere Village & Post, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District is intending to purchase the schedule mentioned property from its owner **Smt. RATHNAMMA**, aged about 56 years, W/o. Late. Sri. Rajachari, residing at Budigere Village, Channarayapatana Hobli, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The owner has represented that the schedule property is free from all encumbrances. Be it known, that if any person/s having any objections in respect of the schedule property they shall lodge their claim/objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 **(Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of receipt of any legally, valid claim/objections within the aforesaid period, my client will proceed with the purchase of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable property land bearing Sy.No. 125/5 measuring 0-11 Guntas out of 1) Sy.No. 125/2, New Sy.No. 125/4, measuring 0-12.08.00 (twelve and half) Guntas Land and 2) Old Sy.No. 125/2, new Sy.No.125/5, measuring 0-16.08.00 (Sixteen and half) Guntas land, total Measuring 0-28.30.00 (twenty nine) Guntas situated at **Budigere Village, Channarayapatana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural district**, bounded on:

EAST BY : Thimmakka Land
WEST BY : Nagarajappa Land
NORTH BY : Thimmakka & Savithramma Land
SOUTH BY : Remaining land of Smt. Rathnamma

K. Mohan, Advocate,
No. 64, 4th Cross, INDIRANAGAR 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560 038
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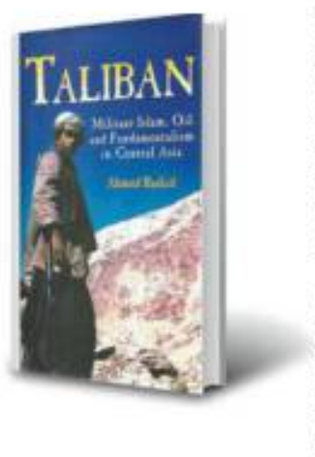
Through multiple lenses: Taliban supporters shout slogans and wave Taliban flags as they march along a street in Kandahar on August 31, 2021. • AFP

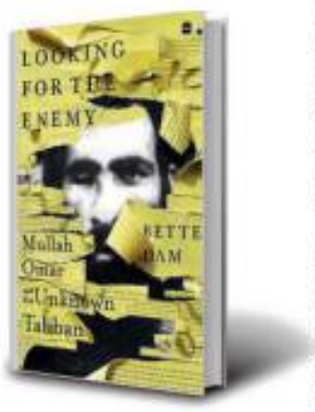
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Understanding the Taliban

As the Taliban mark the first anniversary of their recapture of power on August 15, tracing their past and present through books

STANLY JOHNY





For many, the Taliban, with their strident pre-modern worldview and violence, are an embodiment of barbarity. For many others, they are a local guerrilla force, rooted in tribal beliefs and united by an Islamist ideology, who forced the mighty United States to withdraw from Afghanistan. Either way, the Taliban's history has been enmeshed with that of modern Afghanistan's complex, conflict-ridden past and present.

They rose from nowhere in the first half of the 1990s when Afghanistan was descending into chaos and civil war after the collapse of the communist regime. They were in power from 1996 to 2001, until their Islamic Emirate was toppled by a U.S. invasion. Twenty years later, they recaptured Kabul on August 15, 2021, when the U.S. was scrambling to evacuate its soldiers. As the Taliban mark the first anniversary of their recapture of power on August 15, they are already reshaping Afghanistan according to their worldview.

Rise, retreat and return

Dozens of books have been written about the rise, reign, retreat and return of the Taliban. One of the most widely read books about the group was written by Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid. His 2000 book, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*, traces the origins, ideology and leadership of the group. While in the 1990s everyone was curious to understand the Taliban's rise to power, in the 2010s, the focus had shifted to their insurgency. The U.S. invasion brought down the Taliban regime in 2001 and a new Islamic Republic was founded in Afghanistan. But the Taliban regrouped and continued to wage an insurgency against both the American troops and the Afghan government. American journalist Carlotta Gall's *The Wrong Enemy: America in Afghanistan 2001-14* is an attempt to map the Taliban's resistance and the support it was getting from Pakistan's military establishment.

Steve Coll is another American journalist, who has written extensively on Afghanistan. His 2004 book, *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*, offers exhaustive details about the different phases of Afghanistan's decades-long civil war – the U.S.-backed Mujahideen resistance against the Soviets, the post-communist civil war between warlords and the rise of the Taliban. In *Directorate S: The CIA and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan* (2018), Coll offers a credible narrative on the double game Pakistan was playing in the Afghan war. A critical addition to this list of important books on Afghanistan is Bette Dam's *Looking for the Enemy: Mullah Omar and the Unknown Taliban*.

Eye on Mullah Omar

Dam, a Dutch journalist who has covered Afghanistan extensively, originally published this book in March 2019 and an updated English version was out in December last year. Starting with her first trip to Afghanistan, Dam takes the reader to the inner workings of the Taliban and the most unknown details about its mysterious yet notorious leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar. Dam has travelled extensively in Afghanistan and interviewed dozens of people, including close associates of Omar, Afghan villagers, government officials and international diplomats.

The Taliban rose from nowhere in the first half of the 1990s when Afghanistan was descending into chaos and civil war after the collapse of the communist regime

Her narrative challenges the mainstream views of the Taliban and their leader. She also questions some of the arguments in Rashid's book such as Pakistan's role in Taliban's rise. According to her version, the Taliban rose as a movement from the hujras (religious schools in Afghanistan) backed by some influential local families against the truck mafia in the lawless Kandahar of the post-communist Afghanistan. The Mullah Omar she depicts is a pious, simple, Sufi leader who wanted to unite and stabilise the civil war-stricken Afghanistan under the banner of Islam. She also questions the Western narrative that Omar had close ties with Osama bin Laden and often points to the West for its failure in understanding the Taliban regime.

Dam's narrative, however, seeks to absolve Omar from some of the atrocities the Taliban have committed. The picture of Omar she has drawn up is also heavily dependent on the interviews given by his disciples or neighbours. She writes Omar did not want violence against Mohammad Najibullah, the former Communist President who was lynched by Taliban militants in Kabul after they entered the city. She writes Omar wanted Bin Laden to leave Afghanistan and was not provided with credible evidence by the Americans over his terrorist links. Bin Laden himself had claimed responsibility for some of the major terrorist attacks al-Qaeda carried out in the 1990s, and he had issued two edicts from Afghanistan, calling for global jihad. Dam's Omar appears to be a helpless Mullah who did not favour Laden's version of Islamist ideology. We are talking about a Mullah who waged a ruthless war against the anti-Taliban warlords and the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani to establish his Islamic emirate. Despite all the minute details Dam provides about Omar's supposed detachment from Laden, there is nothing to suggest why Omar didn't use force against the Arab jihadists if he did not want them in Afghanistan. The book also has scant references to Ahmad Shah Massoud, the Taliban's No. 1 enemy in Afghanistan who was assassinated by al-Qaeda just days before the September 11 attacks. Regarding the demolition of the Bamiyan Buddhas, she says Omar was initially against destroying the statues and changed his mind for some unknown reason.

She quotes someone who says Omar wanted to show his middle finger to the West by destroying the statues. But what kind of a leader would destroy 6th century monumental statues with dynamites before the camera just to teach the West a lesson?

Simplistic interpretation

Dam's Omar is also a simple Islamic leader who wanted unity and opposed unreasonable violence. But his supposed simplicity did not prevent him from wearing the holy cloak, which Muslims believe belonged to the Prophet Mohammad, and appear on top of a mosque in Kandahar while reasserting his authority. Despite his calls for unity, the movement he built remained almost entirely Pashtun (it still is), violent and anti-woman by any yardstick of basic human rights and dignity.

Despite these contradictions, *Looking for the Enemy* is an important book. It also offers insights into the transfer of power within the Taliban in 2001, how their offer for surrender was accepted by a powerless Hamid Karzai but rejected by the Americans and the last days of Omar. To understand today's Taliban's, it is imperative to understand the man behind the movement. That's what Dam offers in the book.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Indian teams performed creditably winning two Bronze medals for team performance and many individual medals in the Chess Olympiad in Chennai. Here's yet another quiz on the tournament

1 The 44th Chess Olympiad Open champion, Uzbekistan, featured two teenagers; the first player followed up his triumph in the World Rapid Championships in leading from the 1st Board and finishing just half a point behind India-2's D. Gukesh (9/11). The second player is one of a handful of players who became Grandmasters before the age of 13. Name them.

2 This British player and commentator finished with the highest tournament ELO rating points (2,898) by scoring 7.5/8 games and won gold on the third board. Name him.

3 Another popular chess commentator and presenter, this former child prodigy won one of the individual bronze medals, playing on Board 4 for the India-1 women's team, scoring 8 points in 11 rounds. Name her.

4 Over the course of the tournament, this young Indian player scored 8.5 points in 11 rounds and became the seventh Indian player to cross the super GM ELO threshold of 2700 (live ratings), ending up with 2702.2 ELO points at the end of the tournament. He also won a silver for his performance on Board 3. Name him.

5 Apart from D. Gukesh, only one other Indian player won a gold for individual performance (on Board 2). Name this player who finished with 7.5 points in 10 rounds.

◄ Identify this 22-year-old Polish Woman International Master who had the best individual performance in the women's tournament. • VELANKANNI RAJ

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum preserves the memory of this event. **Ans: The Holocaust**
2. In Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*, this museum is described as follows: 'speech is all that is wanting to make them human'. **Ans: Madame Tussauds**
3. Identify this museum that takes the name of a noble Hyderabad family under the Nizams. **Ans: Salar Jung Museum**
4. The Met Gala is an annual fundraiser held for the benefit of the fashion institute of this New York-based museum. **Ans: Metropolitan Museum of Art**
5. This museum is the largest monument in the world dedicated to a royal. **Ans: Victoria Memorial**
6. The Natural History Museum in London hosts this diamond which is said to have been a part of the Mughal Peacock Throne. **Ans: Koh-i-Noor**
7. This museum is well-known for its spiral design that resembles a nautilus shell. **Ans: Guggenheim Museum**
Visual: This sculpture that was added to the Louvre's collection during the reign of Louis XVIII. **Ans: Venus de Milo**

Early Birds: S. S. Siva Shankar| Saatvik Tayal| Smriti Arora

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"What's the difference between 'must not' and 'need not', sir?"

" 'You must not go' is somewhat like an order. Somebody asks you not to go.

You must not eat.

You must not read.

You must not leave the place.

'You need not go' means 'it is not necessary for you to go'. I'll illustrate the use of these with two dialogues:

"How is he, doctor?"

"He is better. But he must not go out"

"Must he be in bed all the time?"

"No, he needn't. But he must not go out."

"Must I attend the meeting?"

"Yes, you must. But you needn't stay on till the end."

"Must I come to see you tomorrow?"

"No, you needn't unless you want to."

"No, I don't want to."

"Then you needn't come."

"What's the meaning of 'to bank on', sir?"

" 'To bank on' or 'to bank upon' means 'to rely on', 'to depend on'.

I am banking on you to help me in this.

You can't bank on him to get you out of the mess.

This is used in informal contexts."

"What is the meaning of 'He felt on top of the world', sir?"

" 'To feel on top of the world' means 'to be in good spirits', 'to be very happy'.

He is feeling on top of the world. He has got the first rank in the IAS examination.

You don't expect me to feel on top of the world when I am in this awful mess."

"What is the difference between 'peaceful' and 'peaceable', sir?"

" 'Peaceful' means 'calm', 'tranquil', 'full of peace'.

It was a peaceful meeting.

This is a peaceful place.

'Peaceable' means 'inclined towards or promoting peace'.

You must arrive at a peaceable agreement.

They are a peaceable community."

"What's the difference between 'want' and 'need', sir?"

'What we desire, we want. There is no limit to our wants. Our needs are essential. Everyone needs a house to live in. Everyone needs food and clothing. Our needs are generally essential. Our wants are not.

'I want to see him' means I have a desire to see him'. I need to see him' means it is essential, important that I see him'. Our wants are many but our needs are few. We need not discuss the difference any further. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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IT DEFINES OUR PRESENT
AND SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

CELEBRATING FOUNDERS DAY

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VENKATA KRISHNA RANGA RAO

Dr. MULLAPUDI HARISCHANDRA PRASAD

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On this treasured occasion, The Andhra Sugars Limited proudly dedicates its success to the vision and values of its founders.

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Venkatarayapuram

Sree Satyanarayana Spinning Mills Limited
Venkatarayapuram

OTS:ASL:H:11:08:22

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, AUG. 11	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:43
RISE 18:23	SET 05:04
FRIDAY, AUG. 12	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:42
RISE 19:16	SET 06:09
SATURDAY, AUG. 13	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:42
RISE 20:04	SET 07:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	22
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm is likely

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

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Garag residents to boycott Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

This is to protest change in flag code: village khadi unit forced to suspend production

GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
HUBBALLI

When the tricolour flutters atop households on August 15, marking the 75th year of India's independence, the residents of Garag village in Dharwad taluk will not join the celebrations. They are upset with the decision to allow flags of polyester and mill cloth, which has consequently forced the Garag khadi unit, synonymous with the tricolour, to suspend production.

The weaving section of the Garag Kshetriya Seva Sangha's khadi production centre in Dharwad taluk. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Every year when the khadi tricolour fluttered atop high masts on independence day, the residents of Garag village felt proud as it was the cloth manufactured in their village that had gone into the making of the national flag. This year, however, even the ready flag cloth in the Khadi unit has not been procured by the KVIC for flag production.

The village residents have already submitted in writing their decision to not hoist flag of any cloth to express their displeasure over amendment to the flag code.

"This decision was taken in consultation with the elders of the village and it has already been communicated to authorities. We consider allowing any material other than Khadi a disgrace to the national flag itself," said Kiran Bulbule, clarifying that they were not against Har Ghar Tiranga campaign but against using non-khadi flags.

"When the campaign was announced, we felt very happy as earlier we never had the opportunity to hoist tricolour atop our homes. But it was short-lived when we learnt that our Khadi unit has no role in it since flags of other materials had been allowed," Laxman Yaligar, a young lecturer, told *The Hindu*.

Social workers Viresh Jogi and Manjunath Dodmani said, "When one thinks of national flag, one automatically remembers Garag. But when the very existence of the khadi unit which weaves the cloth for the flag is being wiped out, how can we celebrate?"

Forced to shut down

The sound of handlooms from Dharwad taluk's Garag Kshetriya Seva Sangha, located a few hundred meters from the Gandhi statue in the village, can no longer be heard because they stopped functioning in December, 2021. The reason being want of cotton sliver (Hanji in Kannada).

Last year, after its sliver unit in Chitradurga was gutted in a fire accident, KVIC stopped supply of sliver to Khadi units and later came up with the proposal of supplying sliver from Kerala unit at a cost of ₹416 per kilo excluding transport cost, which is almost double the earlier price (₹296/kg).

"We could not afford to procure sliver at such a high cost and asked the KVIC for permission to allow us to procure cotton and get sliver at a regional level. We are yet to receive it," said M.S. Hiremath, Secretary of the Sangha.

Thus, the production of high-quality khadi cloth, which had fetched the Sangha the opportunity to produce flag cloth way back in 1974, came to a standstill last December. "In fact, following a direction from the KVIC chairman, we had got 15,000 metres of cloth woven by December 2021 for the Amrit Mahotsav celebration. However, even that cloth has not been procured from us yet," said Ishwarappa Itagi, Manager of the Sangha.

Another schocking development for the Sangha is that the Khadi Dyers and Printers in Mumbai (reportedly not a khadi production unit), where the Sangha got the flags stitched, has now been permitted by the KVIC to manufacture flags of any cloth.

278 families impacted

As many as 278 families, spread over the villages of Garag, Tadakodu, Kotabagi, Madanbhavi and Nichhanaki, are dependent on the Khadi Seva Sangha and have all been pushed to the streets after the production stopped in 2021.

Even the 16 khadi 'karyakartas' (activists) who take care of the administration of the Sangha have not received their wages since the last four months.

Every year, the Garag Sangha woud do a business of ₹1 crore through the national flag alone on a no-profit no-loss basis. This year, however, they have only made ₹12 lakh so far, thanks to the amendment to the flag code and related developments. "It pains us to see the struggle of khadi workers, that too during Amrit Mahotsav," said Mr. Bulbule.

Consent sought to celebrate I-Day at Idgah Maidan

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Right wing groups submitted a letter to Bengaluru Urban District Commissioner on Wednesday seeking permission to celebrate Independence day on August 15 at Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet.

Members of Sri Rama Sena and Vishwa Sanatan Parishad submitted the letter to deputy commissioner K. Srinivas. The development comes days after the BBMP announced that the Chamarajpet Idgah maidan belonged to the Revenue Department.

Revenue Minister R. Ashoka had earlier said that the Idgah Maidan belongs to the revenue department and if anyone wants to celebrate any event, they have to take permission from Bengaluru DC, who will take a decision.

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Chamarajpet MLA, said that he will convene a meeting on Wednesday.

Water adalat

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the following sub divisions: East-2-2, East-1-2, South East 6, South East 5, West-2-1, South West 4, South East 4, West-2-2, Central-1-1, North 2-1, North East 1, and North West 5. Consumers can contact helpline number 1916 or WhatsApp no. 8762228888.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 10, Wednesday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** What went wrong with the ISRO launch of SSLV? bit.ly/isrsslv
- **Abstract |** Can women be true representatives of the people? bit.ly/womenppl
- **Explained |** On guardianship and adoption of minors bit.ly/minorguards

Online exclusives

- **Watch |** What happens when the Godavari floods? bit.ly/godavriver
- **In Focus podcast** Analysing India's performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games? bit.ly/podgamecwg
- **Data Point |** Comparing 75 years of growth and development bit.ly/sevenfiveind
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Cong. takes exception to forcible sale of flag

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

As the State government was making efforts to promote the Union Government's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the Congress, while hailing India's freedom movement and upholding the dignity of the national flag, took serious exception to the forcible sale of the national flag to citizens.

Priyank Kharge, spokesperson of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and MLA for Chittapur, took to Twitter on Wednesday to condemn the government move soon after he was asked by the Kalaburagi district administration to buy 20,000 national flags by paying ₹4.4 lakh and distribute them among the people.

Speaking to *The Hindu* later in the day, Mr. Priyank said that the government was, for the first time in the history of Independent India, officially selling the national flag to citizens.

"The district administrations are forcing local authorities and educational institutions to buy the national flags and sell them, in turn, to people," Mr. Priyank said.

Taking note of defective flags being supplied, Mr. Priyank also condemned the government for insulting the national flag and alleged that the BJP was serving the business interests of its corporate masters in the name of patriotism.

When contacted, Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner Yeshwanth Gurukar denied the allegation by stating that his administration had not forced anybody to buy the flags, but requested all the people's representatives, NGOs, and the public to buy them.

Two women killed as tree falls on house in Mudigere taluk

KARNATAKA BUREAU
HASSAN/KALABURAGI

Two women died after a tree fell on a house at K. Talaguru village near Baluru in Mudigere taluk on Tuesday night.

The deceased have been identified as Chandramma and Sarita. While Sarita died on the spot, Chandramma breathed her last on the way to a hospital. Both were neighbours. Saritha was sleeping at Chandramma's place as her house was in a dilapidated condition. Two children, Sunil and Deekshit, escaped unhurt.

For the last few days, parts of Chikkamagaluru have been receiving heavy rain. So far, five people have died in Chikkamagaluru in rain-related incidents.

At Hampi

Unabated rainfall in the Tungabhadra catchment areas and the resultant discharge of over 1.64 cusecs of water from the Tungabhadra reservoir continued to flood many monuments at the UNESCO world heritage site of Hampi in Vijayanagara district on Wednesday.

Monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi in Vijayanagara district were flooded on Wednesday. • SRIDHAR KAVALI

Purandara Mantapa, the bathing spot Chakrateertha, and the canal of the Vijayanagara empire were completely submerged in the floodwaters. The premises of Rama Laxmana Temple, the Chandramouleshwar Temple, the 64-pillar Mantapa (the burial site of Vijayanagara emperor Krishnadevaraya) and Nava Brindavan, the burial site of Madhwa saints, were among the monuments that were heavily flooded. The historical Venkataramana Temple, the Gangammana Katte, and the fort at Kampli in Ballari district have also been flooded.

Girl's body found in rivulet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The body of Sannidhi, 8, a Class II student who was swept away in a swollen stream after accidentally falling from the footbridge at Kalthodu village, Byndoor taluk, on Monday, was found on Wednesday. Emergency services personnel located her body about 200m downstream of the Chapparike rivulet at Beejamakki.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
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TENDER SCHEDULE-DURING THE YEAR 2022-23 EGG TENDER

1) Tender Reference No.:No. DWCD/2022/23/IND1708 dated 08.08.2022 **2)** Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from eProcurement website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in :From 08.08.2022** **3)** Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting: - **4)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in eProcurement Portal: - **5)** Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in eProcurement portal : **20.08.2022 up to 5:00 PM** **6)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids:**22.08.2022 11:00 AM** **7)** Date and Time of opening of Financial Bids:**26.08.2022 11:00 AM** **8)** Place of opening of Tenders:e-Procurement Portal **9)** EMD AMOUNT:**150755/- 10)** Total Tender Amount:**15075504/- 11)** Address for Communication:Office of the Child Development Project Officer, Department of Women and Child Development,KAKOL ROAD OLD TAHASHILDAR OFFICE, BYADGI, Phone: **+919945365172**,STD code-08375,landline number-**228860**, Email: cdpobyadgi@gmail.com

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIKRAM Jain, R/a No.24, Subramanya Swamy Temple Street, V V Puram, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my minor Son's name from Preet Jain to Preet Vikram Jain vide affidavit dt: 22.07.2022 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Blore.

I, PRACHI Aspatwar, R/a Flat No. K-502, Purva Highland Holiday village Road, Mallasandra, Uttarahalli Hobli, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore - 560062 have changed my name to Prachi Pradip Aspatwar vide affidavit dt: 06.08.2022 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Blore.

I, MALLURI Mahendranatha Reddy, R/a Flat No.002, A Block, Maruthi Anutham Apts, Near Green Ville Lyt, Junnasandra, Sarjapura road, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name to Malluri Mahendranath Reddy vide affidavit dt: 06.08.2022 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Blore

I, Thulasi Devi D/O, Shanmugam G R/o Door No#65, 5th "a" Cross, Manjunatha Nagar, Kalkere, Horamavu Post, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to S.Thulasi Devi for all purposes.

I, YESHWANTH Raj R/o. Villa 142, Alliance 10 Downing Kannamangala Kadugodi, have Changed my Minor Son's Name from Souyashvinu to Souyashvinu Y for all purposes.

I, Maria Nivya D/o Subramani, #44 Ramachandrapura Bangalore-560013 have changed my name to Nivya Affidavit Dated- 08/08/2022 Notary - Advocate Uday Kumar k Bangalore

I, CI ADITHYAN dependent son of K. Iyiango, R/at Flat No.408, Apple Heights Apartments, H M Halli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name from CI Adithyan to Adithya I vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 sworn before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

PERSONAL MESSAGES

✔ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Naina...may you get married to Tushar as soon as possible. Ph: 09116604064

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PUBLIC NOTICE

DECLARING TO BE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON

I, Girish V Menon, S/o. P. Vijayanandan, aged 42, residing at Tower 22,22011, Prestige lakeside Habitat 28/2, SH-35, Devasthanagalu, Gunjur Village, Bengaluru-560 087 do hereby declare and state that I am also known as V.Girish, Girish V., and Girish Vijayanandan along with the name Girish V Menon.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-18)
P & S.C No. 531/2022

1. Sri. Maranna .N, S/o Late Narasimhalu, aged about 38 years, R/at: No.66/67, Sanjay Gandhinagar, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore- 560020. **2. Sri. Nagaraja .N,** S/o Late Narasimhalu, aged about 36 years, R/at: No.66/67, Sanjay Gandhinagar, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560020. **3. Smt. Bhagyalakshmi .D,** D/o Late Narasimhalu, W/o Naresh .D, 16th Ward, 13th Ward, Indiranagar, Near Ambedkar Circle, Hospet- 583201. ...**Petitioners**
AND: NIL ...RESPONDENTS
(Summons/Notice for advertisement in a newspaper) (Order 5 Rule 20)

Whereas, the above named has made petition to this court under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the petitioner No.3, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by father: Late Narasimhalu and Nominee mother: Late Smt. Lakshmamma of petitioners herein who expired on 10.02.2017 & 28.09.2022.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **06.09.2022** at 11:00 AM inform to show cause against the petitioners failing whereon the Inform to show cause against the Petitioners failing whereon the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

Schedule Property

Policy Holder: Narasimhalu, **Nominee:** Lakshmamma, **Details of Policy:** LIC Endowment Plan bearing Policy No.613273329, **Assured Sum:** Rs.1,00,000/-. **Policy Holder:** Narasimhalu, **Nominee:** Lakshmamma, **Details of Policy:** LIC Jeevan Rakshak Plan bearing Policy No.613274831, **Assured Sum:** Rs.1,00,000/-.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 01.08.2022, at Bangalore.

By the order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioner: **Madhu. J.A.** S-404, "Brigade Plaza", Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: EEE/MWD/CTA/22-23/F/1500-04 Date: 19.07.2022

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(C) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

(1) Name of the work: Re-Construction of 66KV SC Idle line on SC Towers having coyote conductor from 66KV Chitradurga Old Station to 66KV Pandrahalli for a distance of 16.681Kms by 66KV SC line on DC towers using Drake conductor in the existing corridor in Chitradurga District. ▪ Approximate Length of 66KV Line: **16.681Kms.** ▪ Proposed 66KV Line Passing through areas.

DISTRICT: CHITRADURGA. **TALUK:** CHITRADURGA. **Hobli:** KASABA. **Village:** Chitradurga, Medehalli, Matada kurabarahalli, M R Nagar, Kavadigara hatti, Jaalikatte, Attikatte, Jagadalipura,Janakonda, pandrahalli.

(2) Name of the work: Providing additional 66KV circuit between HD Pura tap point and HD Pura station for a distance of 10Kms with coyote conductor to provide LILO arrangements at 66/11KV station HD Pura by replacing existing SC towers by DC towers in the existing corridor along with one No. TB at 66/11KV HD pura Sub-station. ▪ Approximate Length of 66KV Line: **9.163Kms.** ▪ Proposed 66KV Line Passing through areas.

(1) DISTRICT: CHITRADURGA. **TALUK:** CHITRADURGA **Hobli:** KASABA. **Village**: Pandrahalli. **(2) DISTRICT:** CHITRADURGA. **TALUK:** HOLALKERE. **Hobli:** TALYA. **Village**: Echaghatta, Nagaraghatta, Nellikatte, Mattigatta, H.D Pura.

APPROXIMATE PROJECT Cost: Rs. 2193.00 Lakhs.

(3) Name of the work: (a) Re-Construction of 66kV SC line on MC tower in the existing corridor (from 66kV station Hiriyu to 4 pole structure) SC line on DC tower (NBT) from 4 pole Structure to Tavarekre LILO point for a distance of 29.175kms (Sira Taluk, Tumakuru District) in the existing corridor in Hiriyur Taluk Chitradurga Dist. **(b)** Re-Construction of 66kV SC Hiriyur-Chitradurga line on DC (NBT) tower from 4 pole structure to (In vedavanthi Nagara) Loc No:8 of sugar factory limit for a distance of 1.577kms, in Hiriyur Taluk Chitradurga Dist. ▪ Approximate Length of 66KV Line: **29.175Kms. & 1.577kms.** ▪ Proposed 66KV Line Passing through areas. **(1) DISTRICT:** CHITRADURGA & Tumakuru. **TALUK:** Hiriyur & Sira. **Hobli:** Babbur, Kasaba dharmapura, Bukkapatna. **Village:** Myaklurahalli, Babur, Hiriyur, Adivala Bagganadukavalu, Aneshdiri, Javagondanahali, Ujjanakunte, Maranagere, Tavarakere. **(2) DISTRICT:** Chitradurga. **TALUK:** Hiriyur. **Hobli:** Kasaba. **Village:** Hiriyur, Vedavathi Nagar.

APPROXIMATE PROJECT Cost: Rs. 1365.51 Lakhs.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), Major Works Division
KPTCL, # 9584 & 9585, 1st Floor,
3rd Cross (East) JCR Circle, Chitradurga-577501.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP, Annexe Building - 03, Room No. 5, N.R.Square, Bangalore - 560 002.

NO. DCF/TENDER/03/2022-23 DATE : 09.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP invites tenders for Raising & Maintenance of Plantations during 2022-23, and Maintenance of Plantations during 2023-24 & 2024-25 in various Zones of Bangalore Forest Division for the year from eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Zone	Tender No.	Raising & Maintenance of Monsoon Plantations for the year 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25 and Reservation category	No. of Plants	Work Value (Rs.)	EMD Amount (Rs.)
1	Bommanahalli	1	Block - 1 (Reserved for General Category)	8,000	7,80,000	1,56,000/-
		2	Block - 2 (Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,45,000	48,900/-
		3	Block - 3 (Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,45,000	48,900/-
		4	Block - 4 (Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,45,000	48,900/-
		5	Block - 5 (Reserved for General Category)	2,000	19,50,000	48,750/-
		6	Block - 6 (Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-
		7	Block - 7(Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-
2	East	8	Block - 1(Reserved for General Category)	6,000	58,00,000	1,16,000/-
3	West	9	Block - 1(Reserved for General Category)	2,000	19,50,000	48,750/-
		10	Block - 2(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
4	South	11	Block - 1(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		12	Block - 2(Reserved for General Category)	2,000	19,50,000	48,750/-
5	Yelahanka	13	Block - 1(Reserved for General Category)	8,000	78,00,000	1,56,000/-
		14	Block - 2(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		15	Block - 3(Reserved for SC Category)	2,500	24,50,000	24,500/-
		16	Block - 4(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		17	Block - 5(Reserved for SC Category)	2,000	19,50,000	24,375/-
		18	Block - 6(Reserved for SC Category)	1,500	14,50,000	18,125/-
6	Mahadeva pura	19	Block - 1(Reserved for General Category)	7,500	72,55,000	1,45,100/-
		20	Block - 2(Reserved for STCategory)	2,500	24,50,000	24,500/-
		21	Block - 3(Reserved for SC Category)	2500	24,50,000	24,500/-
		22	Block - 4(Reserved for STCategory)	2,000	19,50,000	24,375/-
		23	Block - 5(Reserved for SC Category)	1,500	14,50,000	18,125/-
		24	Block - 6(Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-
7	Dasarahalli	25	Block -1(Reserved for General Category)	6,000	58,00,000	1,16,000/-
		26	Block - 2(Reserved for General Category)	2,000	19,50,000	48,750/-
		27	Block - 3(Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-
8	R R Nagara	28	Block -1(Reserved for General Category)	8,000	78,00,000	1,56,000/-
		29	Block - 2(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		30	Block - 3(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		31	Block - 4(Reserved for General Category)	2,500	24,50,000	49,000/-
		32	Block - 5(Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-
		33	Block - 6(Reserved for General Category)	1,500	14,50,000	36,250/-

1) Date of Commencement of downloading documents from e-procurement website **https:/eproc.karnataka.gov.in : from 10.08.2022 onwards. 2)** Pre-Bid Meeting: **16.08.2022 at 4.30 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tender documents: **24.08.2022 upto 5.30 p.m. 4)** Tenders will be opened **on 25.08.2022 at 05.30 p.m.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned or refer **https//:eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP.

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

FROM THE GLORIOUS HIMALAYAS,
TO THE QUAINT BACKWATERS.
FROM THE SHIMMERING PALACES,
TO THE UNTOUCHED LANDS OF THE EAST.

TAJ PROUDLY CELEBRATES
AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV.

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Infections caused by Omicron BA.5 sub-lineage increasing in State

While BA.2 is the dominant strain, BA.5 — found in 112 samples till June-end — was detected in 279 samples in July; there has been a rise in hospitalisation and deaths

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

The number of infections caused by Omicron's BA.5 sub-lineage are on the rise in Karnataka. According to data from the State Health and Family Welfare Department, BA.5 has contributed 21.89% of the total 1,300 samples sequenced in July in the State.

This sub-lineage that was found in 112 samples till June end has been detected in 279 samples in July, data showed. However, Omicron's BA.2 continues to be the dominant strain in Karnataka so far contributing 48.50% of the total samples sequenced in July.

The presence of BA.5 sub-lineage was initially detected in the last week of May through sewage surveillance in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

The presence of BA.5 sub-lineage was initially detected in the last week of May through sewage surveillance in Bengaluru. The Indian SARS-CoV -2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) confirmed it only a month later on June 21. So far, 15,293 samples have been sequenced in Karnataka.

According to INSACOG's July report, while 279 samples have been found to be infected with BA.5, 618 samples were found to be infected with BA.2 sub-lineage.

Different sub-lineages

Overall, 98% of the total 1,300 samples sequenced in July have been found to be infected with different sub-lineages of Omicron. This includes BA1.1.529 (27.55%), BA.2 (48.50%), BA.5 (21.89%), BA.4 (1.64%), and BA.3 (0.39%).

While Delta was the dominant strain during the first wave with 90.7% of the 4,441 samples, sequenced from March 2021 to December 2021, found to be infected with it, 87.8% of the 9,552 samples, sequenced from January till June 2022, were found to be infected with Omicron.

With the rise in BA.5 infections, the State has also recorded a rise in hospitalisation and deaths.

> **Omicron's BA.5 sub-lineage is able to evade previous immunity – both due to a prior infection and vaccine-induced. Even those who have taken booster doses can get infected. But the infection can be mild, similar to a flu among the vaccinated.**
>
> V. RAVI
> Head of Karnataka's genomic surveillance committee

From 107 hospital admissions on June 30, the number has gone up to 221 now. Of these, only 56 are from Bengaluru Urban.

While 29 deaths were recorded in June, the first 10 days of August have already seen 24 deaths. Six and 10 deaths were recorded in May and June, respectively. However, experts said that it is too early to link this to the rise in BA.5. State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said most of the deaths are among senior citizens with comorbidities. "Surveillance will be intensified now to curb the spread in clusters. Besides targeted testing of ILI/SARI cases, we have directed health staff to mandatorily test all primary contacts of positive persons, irrespective of symptoms," he said.

Previous immunity

V. Ravi, who heads the State's genomic surveillance committee, said BA.5 has better fitness for human cell receptors.

"This sub-lineage is able to evade previous immunity - both due to a prior infection and vaccine-induced. Even those who have taken booster doses can get infected. But the infection can be mild, similar to a flu among the vaccinated," Dr. Ravi said. "As the new sub-lineages are highly transmissible, masking up is the best weapon. People should wear masks at least in crowded areas," he said.

Surge in ILI/SARI

Rajath Athreya, member of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said there is a huge surge in ILI/SARI cases, most of which are non-COVID. "However, we may have to wait and watch for another week or 10 days to understand if the circulating sub-lineages are leading to a rise in hospitalisation that require oxygen," he added.

Five deaths reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday recorded 1,680 new infections. With five deaths, the State's toll touched 40,128. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded, taking the total number of cases to 40,24,394.

With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 6.85% and the weekly TPR touched 6.33%. Of the new cases, 1,058 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

As many as 2,114 persons were discharged on Wednesday taking the total recoveries to 39,73,873. Active cases stood at 10,351 on Wednesday.

As many as 24,504 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 19,116 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,80,90,965.

Lack of clarity on whether Kateel will be replaced

His term comes to a close by the end of this month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

There is much curiosity in the BJP on whether it would get a new State president or the incumbent, Nalin Kumar Kateel, would be continued even though his term comes to a close by the end of this month.

Conventionally, the BJP has changed its State presidents after the completion of their term. But given that elections to the Legislative Assembly are fast approaching, there is uncertainty on whether it would happen this time. The party Central leadership is yet to take up the issue for discussion. Party cadre is hoping that clarity on whether the incumbent will get an extension or a replacement would emerge by this month end.

Those who are in favour of appointing a new State president allege that there is little co-ordination between the government and the organisation now. They argue that the party must get a new chief who is capable of galvanising the cadre.

Caste calculations

Theories are floating around that if the party decides to replace Mr. Kateel, then his successor would be either from the Vokkaliga, OBC or SC/ST community, as Chief Minister hails from the Lingayat community.

Speculations are rife that if the party has to find a new president, then pick would be from among party national general secretary C.T. Ravi, who belongs to Vokkaliga community, or Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar, who hails from OBC community. Party insiders observe that Dalit leader Arvind Limbavali and Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje too would be in the reckoning.

Interestingly, none of the leaders whose names are doing rounds appear to be lobbying for the post as there is no clarity on the stand of the party high command yet. Also, a prominent leader observed that the high command could come out with a surprise choice like it did while choosing the successor for the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

It is a practice to change office-bearers too when the party State president is changed. But this time, the party leaders are not sure whether there would be a rejig considering the fact that there is not much time left for Assembly elections.

Bommai will complete full term, says BSY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Seeking to put an end to the speculation on whether Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would be replaced, veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa on Wednesday declared that Mr. Bommai would complete his full term.

"There is no question of changing the Chief Minister when seven to eight months are left for the elections," he told reporters in Bengaluru before embarking upon a pilgrimage to Mantralayam. He also made it clear that anything related to change of guard had not come up for discussion when he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Bengaluru.

BJP sets up war room

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday opened a war room to coordinate with its district and taluk units as well as frontal organisations for preparations for the next Legislative Assembly elections.

The war room that has come up in Malleswaram of Bengaluru will accommodate media centre, call centre, and infrastructure for handling social media campaign.

BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, who inaugurated the war room, said similar war rooms would be set up at various levels including booths for better co-ordination.

No relief for teacher who shamed child in class

HC refuses to quash POCSO case against the woman for punishing 5-year-old by pulling down her pants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to interfere with criminal proceedings initiated against a woman teacher for punishing a five-year-old girl child by pulling down her pants in front of other children in nursery class of a private school in Bengaluru.

Observing that "traumatising children at a tender age by teachers as a measure of punishment would have a devastating psychological impact on the child," the court said that "such act, unless proven otherwise by the petitioner in a full blown trial, is undoubtedly uncouth, unpardonable and unbecoming for a teacher who deals with a girl child of the age of five."

> **It must be remembered, 'spare the rod and spoil the child' has metamorphosed into 'spare the rod and teach the child'.**
>
> JUSTICE M. NAGAPRASANNA

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order recently while rejecting a petition filed by 41-year-old teacher, who had questioned the chargesheet filed against her based on the complaint lodged by the victim child's mother in 2017 in Ulsoor police station. The child's mother had complained that the accused-teacher was initially beating the child. After the parents objected to such conduct, the teacher started pulling down pants of children as punishment and making other children of class to taunt him/her. It was also alleged that children were threatened by saying that they would be locked in a dark room where a dog is kept. The complainant had also alleged that her daughter was locked in a dark room for about two minutes as punishment. The trial court had recorded the child's statement, which matched the allegations made in the complaint.

The court pointed out that the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, states that a person, who makes the child exhibit his/her body or any part of his or her body so as it is seen by any other person, to be punishable for sexual harassment.

"Children who experience aggressive behaviour or violence from the hands of a teacher often develop emotional and behavioural problems; their cognitive skills diminish and would have far reaching consequences in the psychological blend of a child and would negatively impact the academic performance of the child. The aggression of whatever means of any teacher on the child is unpardonable," the court observed.

Justice Nagaprasanna also observed, "It must be remembered, 'spare the rod and spoil the child' has metamorphosed into 'spare the rod and teach the child".

VTU shows red signal to four engineering colleges

B. Muthuraman is first chairman of board of governors of UVCE

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has not granted affiliation for the academic year of 2022-23 for first year undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and third semester UG (lateral entry) admissions for four engineering colleges in the State.

The colleges that have not been given affiliation are Girijabai Sail Institute of Technology-Karwar, Achutha Institute of Technology-Bengaluru, Sri Vinayaka Institute of Technology-KGF, and Sri Basaveshwara Institute of Technology-Tiptur. The decision was taken by the VTU executive council during a meeting on July 30, and the Vice-Chancellor approved this on August 6. The VTU has already recommended to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to not include these colleges in the engineering seat matrix.

VTU officials said all these four engineering colleges had failed to fulfil All-India Council for Technical Education norms when the inspection was conducted by the officials. Shortage of teaching faculty is a major problem in all these institutions.

According to the AICTE, the faculty and student ratio is 1:12, which the institutions did not have, officials said, adding that they have a shortage of non-teaching staff also. Poor infrastructure, including proper buildings, were also noted, they said.

A.S. Deshpande, Registrar (Admin), VTU, told *The Hindu*, "There were some adverse reports from the inspection of these colleges. We had given caution to the colleges many times and they have the same problems again. They failed to fulfil the AICTE norms. Finally, the VTU executive council took the decision to not grant affiliation for the academic year of 2022-23."

BEML executes order for Cameroon

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

BEML Limited, a Defense Public Sector Undertaking, has executed an order worth USD 19.76 million with Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Cameroon, for supplying 71 earthmoving machinery for preparation of agricultural land for Cassava Project under Government of India Line of Credit. The equipment was handed over to Zoutene Doufene, Director General, MINEPAT, Government of Cameroon, by Amit Banerjee, Chairman and Managing Director of BEML.

Harsha Bangari, MD and CEO, Exim Bank of India, M.V. Rajasekhar, Director (Mining and Construction), BEML, senior officials from Cameroon, Exim Bank of India, and BEML were present.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Smt Rukmini Mahadevan
27.7.1935 – 6.8.2022
wife of Shri TM Mahadevan, Retd Director of Atomic Minerals Division, DAE, passed away peacefully in her sleep at **9:30pm on Sat 6 Aug 2022** at her home in Ernakulam, Kerala. Deeply Mourned by her beloved husband, Shri TM Mahadevan; Daughters and Sons in Law – Usha Venkateswaran, V.Venkateswaran, Sumathi Krishnan, N.C.Krishnan; Grandchildren – Rajesh Venkateswaran, Vaanie Krishnan & Dinith Amarasinghe, Vasanth Krishnan; Brothers, Sisters, Nieces and Nephews. *Contact Email:* **rukkuobituary6822@gmail.com**

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

9th ANNIVERSARY

EDWIN ROBERT
Robert, I will hold you in my heart, until I can hold you again in heaven.
from **Wife & Daughters**

Rosie Koithra
1953 - 2006
Beloved wife of Anthony Koithra, mother of Kiran Koithra and daughter of Mathew and Mariamma Alapatt. Mourned by mother, husband, son, siblings and all those whose lives she touched.

Joint Director Office, Social Welfare Department, Kolar District, Kolar
Phone:08152-240073 Mob:9900226282
e-mail: jointdirector.kolar@gmail.com
No.:JDK/SWDE/RS/CR-A/2022-23 Date:04.05.2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender published/called/invited to Provide Necessary Basic items for 6 Residential schools working under Karnataka Residential Schools Society, Kolar District as per KTPP Act 1999 and 2000. Tender related all documents are available in **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (Based on E-Procurement updated/changes).

Sl No.	Group	Items details	Approx. Demand	Tender Amount
1.	A	DESK CUM BENCH.	245	25736884
2.		TWO TIER COTTS	770	
3.		DINING TABLE (6 Seater)	187	
4.		OFFICE TABLES	51	
5		"S" Type Chairs.	103	

(1) Tender Published Date: **04.08.2022 (2)** Tender Amount: **Rs.25736884. (3)** EMD Amount: **Rs.3,86,053.00 (4)** Last date and time for uploading tender documents: **17.09.2022 5.00 PM (5)** Date and time for Pre-Bid Meeting: **12.08.2022 4.00 PM (6)** Date and time for Technical BID: **20.09.2022 11.00 AM (7)** Date and time for Financial BID: **21.09.2022 11.00 AM. (8)** Office address: **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavana, Srinivaspura Main Road, Kolar-563 101.**

Sd/- Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, Kolar District.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
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idco ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Request for proposal
Bid Identification No. P&C/EST/E- 50 / 2022-23
No. File No. CIV/ ARCH/E - 4078/ 01-21/ 20445, Date: 08-08-2022

Request for Proposal is invited from renowned Consulting firms for **"Selection of Interior Design Consultant for State of Art Furnishing OHUB for Start up Odisha in Bhubaneswar"**

The detail RFP notice can be seen in E-Procurement Portal of Government of Odisha web site https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app. The bid document can be downloaded from **5.00 PM of 12.08.2022**. The last date of submission of the technical bid is **02.09.2022 by 5.00 PM**. in E-Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar.
CAD-1448 OIPR-14003/11/0104/2223

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Division, Hassan
No.: KST/EEH/JE/277/2022-23 Date: 10.08.2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION 02/2022-23

Tenders are invited in E-Procurement mode from eligible registered KPWD / CPWD / MES Contractors for the following work. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded free of cost from the E-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **11.08.2022 onwards.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (in Lakhs)	E.M.D. (in Rs.)	Last date for submission of tenders
1	Construction of Bus Station with its sub works at Anvatti, Soraba Tq. **(3rd Call)**	262.55	3,93,840/-	**26.08.2022**

More details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, KSRTC Regional Training Institute building near Dairy Circle, Ring Road, Hassan during working hours on all working days.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
KSRTC, CE Division, Hassan
DIPR/CP/LC/1740/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Second warning at Bhadrachalam

Krishna, Godavari continue to be in spate with heavy rain in Maharashtra; Sagar gates likely to be lifted

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR
HYDERABAD

The Krishna and Godavari rivers continue to be in spate with the latter from the point of Kaleshwaram and downstream, and the second warning level is in force at Bhadrachalam as the flood level in the Godavari there crossing 51 feet and the flow in the river crossing the 13-lakh cusecs mark.

The flood situation in the Wardha and Wainganga rivers, which become the Pranahitha in Telangana and is contributing most to the flood level at Bhadrachalam downstream, is extreme and severe in Maharashtra.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has indicated a rising trend for the two rivers based on the IMD forecast and heavy rain in the catchment areas in the Upper Godavari Basin.

Rising fear: The flood inflow to the Krishna at the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada is increasing due to heavy discharge at the projects upstream.. •K.V.S GIRI

Although flood level in the Indravathi, which was severe on Wednesday afternoon at Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh, was receding, heavy contribution from the Pranahitha was expected to keep the flood level at Bhadrachalam and downstream high with the IMD forecasting very heavy rain in the catchment areas in Maharashtra.

A CWC advisory issued on Wednesday indicated that the flood level in the Godavari at Bhadrachalam was expected to be in the above normal situation till August 15.

Extremely heavy rainfall of 24.2 cm in Mahabaleshwar, 22.8 cm in Koyna and very heavy rainfall of 13.8 cm in Warana, all the major catchment areas of Upper Krishna Basin, was recorded in the 24-hour period till 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday and it is likely add to the flood downstream.

The Srisaialam reservoir was getting over 3.60 lakh cusecs flood and discharge was over 3.17 lakh cusecs from 10 spillway gates lifted for 10 feet height each.

The chances of lifting spillway gates of Nagarjunsagar on Thursday had become certain with its storage crossing 295/312 tmcft at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Flood to the project was over 2.8 lakh cusecs and outflow was about 40,000 cusecs with power generation and release to canals.

First flood alert at Dowleswaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VELERUPADU

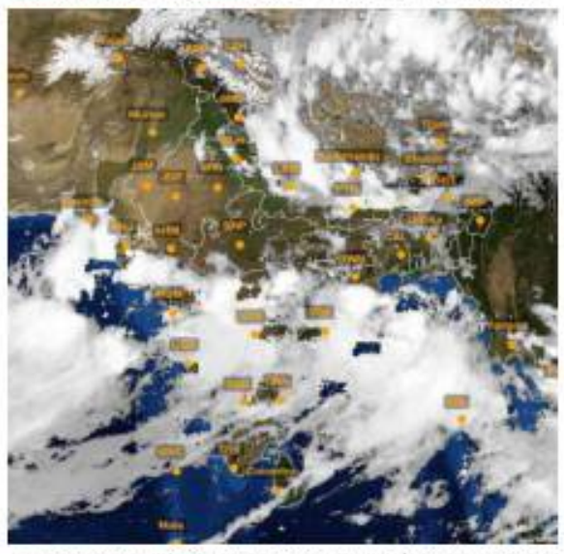
Many island villages in West Godavari district and the habitations located along the bunds of the Godavari have been inundated as the floodwater level is on the rise again due to heavy rain in the catchment areas in Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

At the Polavaram project, the officials were releasing 8.73 lakh cusecs downstream. The officials issued the first warning at Dowleswaram, where they were discharging about 10 lakh cusecs from the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage.

Eluru district Collector V. Prasanna Venkatesh said instructions have been given to evacuate the people from affected habitations.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Punjab, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Karnataka. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	32.4	26.0	Kozhikode	1	31.8	25.8
Ahmedabad	3	32.4	25.8	Kurnool	–	31.5	23.9
Aizawl	–	–	–	Lucknow	–	35.0	27.9
Allahabad	–	32.1	28.2	Madurai	–	36.1	23.0
Bengaluru	2.2	26.9	19.6	Mangaluru	0.2	28.2	24.2
Bhopal	21.8	–	23.6	Mumbai	37	28.6	24.3
Bhubaneswar	76	28.4	24.8	Mysuru	4	27.0	21.0
Chandigarh	–	37.2	28.7	New Delhi	–	37.5	27.8
Chennai	–	36.5	27.4	Patna	–	31.6	28.1
Coimbatore	–	31.0	23.0	Port Blair	0.9	30.1	25.8
Dehradun	3	35.2	25.0	Puducherry	–	35.6	24.8
Gangtok	2.2	19.2	18.7	Pune	25.4	25.4	20.5
Goa	20	29.1	23.8	Raipur	173	25.6	23.8
Guwahati	37	32.8	25.2	Ranchi	29	25.4	22.5
Hubballi	–	26.0	21.0	Shillong	–	24.8	18.4
Hyderabad	2	29.5	23.0	Shimla	3	25.1	18.0
Imphal	0.8	27.6	21.7	Srinagar	–	33.0	19.7
Jaipur	16.2	34.0	27.3	Thiruvananthapuram	–	30.6	24.8
Kochi	–	29.4	26.0	Tiruchi	–	35.9	24.0
Kohima	–	30.2	18.3	Vijayawada	–	34.8	25.4
Kolkata	3	32.1	26.2	Visakhapatnam	–	30.4	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	31	22	.49	45	57	
Bengaluru	7	27	.41	34	116	
Chennai	3	25	.67	25	83	
Delhi	17	23	.56	62	136	
Hyderabad	8	8	113	–	39	
Kolkata	11	7	.42	8	18	
Lucknow	7	24	.84	18	36	
Mumbai	36	29	.47	24	34	
Pune	–	40	.98	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	15	37	.36	42	101	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sirsa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 156 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Using fish ear bones to estimate seawater temperature

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Oceans cover three quarters of the earth's surface and host many remarkable life forms. Earth scientists have been attempting to reconstruct the seawater temperature over time, but it is not easy to do so.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have now identified a way to estimate ancient seawater temperature by probing tiny bones in the ears of fish.

"When you go back in time, you don't have any fossilised seawater," explained Ramananda Chakrabarti, Associate Professor at the Centre for Earth Sciences (CEaS), IISc, and corresponding author of the study published in Chemical Geology. Therefore, he and his PhD student, Surajit Mondal,

Images of salts of elements being ionized for isotopic measurements in a Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometer hosted in Ramananda Chakrabarti's lab. •RAMANANDA CHAKRABARTI

in collaboration with Prosenjit Ghosh, Professor at CEaS, turned to otoliths - tiny bones found in the inner ear of fish.

An IISc release explained: "Like corals, otoliths are made of calcium carbonate and grow throughout a fish's lifetime by accumulating minerals from seawater. Similar to tree rings, these otoliths also hold clues to the fish's age, migration patterns, and the type of water that the fish lived in."

For several years, Prof. Chakrabarti and his team have been tracking calcium carbonate deposits found in tiny animals like corals or foraminifera. In the current study, they chose otoliths as scientists have discovered fossilised otolith samples dating as far back as the Jurassic period (172 million years ago).

The release said researchers used six present-day otolith samples collected from different geographical locations along the east coast of North America. They analysed the ratio of different calcium isotopes in these otoliths with a Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometer (TIMS). By measuring the ratios of calcium isotopes in the sample, they were able to correlate it with the seawater temperatures from which the fish were collected.

"We demonstrated that calcium isotopes are a powerful tracer of water temperature, and Surajit's efforts make our lab the only lab in the country that can actually measure these isotopic variations," Prof. Chakrabarti was quoted as saying. In addition to calcium isotopes, the team also analysed the concentration of other elements like strontium, magnesium, and barium, and their ratios in the same sample, and collated the data together to tease out a more accurate value for seawater temperature within a range of plus or minus one degree Celsius when compared to the actual value.

Organisms that live in the ocean are extremely sensitive to temperatures. A two-degree temperature rise could lead to the extinction of several species. In addition, because the atmosphere and the ocean are "on talking terms", a lot of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere eventually dissolves into the ocean, and this ability is also linked to seawater temperature - the lower the temperature, the more carbon dioxide is trapped. Because of the close correlation they found between calcium isotope ratios and temperatures, the authors are confident that their approach can now be used on fossilised samples. Mapping early seawater temperatures is important to better understand Earth's history, they say. "What happened back in time is key to our understanding of what will happen in the future," Prof. Chakrabarti said.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12732 Date: 03.08.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Tenders are invited in two cover system from reputed firms/ agencies for the work of **Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Stream-B Internals at DM Plant-1 EE CAM-2 Division at RTPS.** EMD: **Rs. 95,000/-**. Last date for submission of completed tender documents: **03.09.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid: **05.09.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.** Opening of Price Bids of pre-qualified tenderers: **06.09.2022 at 11.30 Hrs.** All relevant details are available in the e-portal: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the **Superintending Engineer (MM)-2/ EECAM-2**, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur Dist.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Diff .heads/TDR/2022-23/
Dt: 06.08.2022
Tender Notification (Through E-portal only)
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 02 work comprising of approved building & road work under D.M.F & KKRDB scheme through e-procurement portal. Contractors are required to submit the tender before 16-08-2022 at 4.00 PM by uploading the relevant documents through e-procurement portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index.seam by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 06-08-2022 to 16-08-2022 at 4.00 PM. Tenders will be opened through e-proc portal on 17-08-2022 at 5.00 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published in e-procurement website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/339/MCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road) Bengaluru-25.
Ph: 080 – 25584102 / 25594893, Website: www.ksphc.org
e-mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com
No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/62/2022-23/173 Date: 08.08.2022
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING (CALL - 2 & 4) TENDER
KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document KW- 2 & 3 through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (Two Cover System) **Call-2 & 4** for the works:
1. Upgradation of Prisoners Interview Room for District Prison at Chikkaballapura (APT Rs. 20.22 Lakhs)
2. Construction of M T Shed in the DAR premises at Mysore (APT Rs. 29.61 Lakhs)
3. Construction of Second Floor of Administrative Block at RFSL Doddabathi in Davanagere District. (APT Rs. 74.86 Lakhs)
4. Package No. - 02 Providing Drinking Water Supply Connections to Existing Quarters Of Police Colony in Vijayapur (10 Locations) and Bagalkote (02 Location) Districts (Call-4) (APT Rs. 54.29 Lakhs)

The Interested Eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process.
The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from **16.08.2022.**
"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."
Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only one Procurement portal.
DIPR/DDU/AAA/1733/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer - Contracts I/c
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

idco Your power to grow ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
Tender Call Notice No H.O./P&C/EST-E- 1878/01/2022 20408 Dated:- 08.08.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement
Name of the Work:- Construction of 1000 Persons Workers Hostel(G+2) at Balasore Odisha.
Estimated cost :- Rs. 3796.00 lakhs (apprx).
Period of completion:- 18(Eighteen) calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Id.No.PC/EST/E-48/2022-23	16.00 Hours of 26.08.2022	17.00 Hours of 16.09.2022

Further details can be seen from the eProcurement Portal. www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in**
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1450 OIPR-14003/11/0116/2223

idco Your power to grow ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO **H.O/P&C/EST-E-961/03/2012** **20478** **Dated:-08.08.2022**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement
Name of the Work:- Construction of Canal Over Bridge at Basantpur (MSME Park), Sambalpur, Odisha
Estimated cost:- Rs. **149.00** lakhs (Apprx).
Period of completion:- 05(Five) calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar	Bid Id. No. PC/ EST/E-51 / 2022-23	16.00 Hours of 22.08.2022	17.00 Hours of 13.09.2022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO website www.idco.in**
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD - 1456 OIPR-14003/11/0108/2223

idco Your power to grow ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR-751022
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO **H.O/P&C/EST-E-1982/01/2022-20339** **Dated:-06/08/2022**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. NO.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	"Proposed construction of Intake well & Allied facilities at Brahmani river, KNK, near Jaipur, Odisha"	Rs. 2,043.13 lakhs	09(Nine) Calendar Months

1. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022	Bid ID. No. P&C/ EST/E-42 / 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 25.08.2022	17.00 Hours of 12.09.2022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tenderodisha.gov.in** as well as IDCO **website www.idco.in.**
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD - 1453 OIPR-14003/11/0114/2223

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821- 2545894, Mob: 9480813130 Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com
PQ TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)
Pre-Qualification Tenders are invited for the work of Providing 2nd stage UGD Scheme to Bantwala town on DBOT mode (Tender ref No: 771) through e-procurement portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** PQ documents may be obtained from **11.08.2022** after 11:00 Hours & last date of submission is on **10.09.2022** upto 17:30 Hours. PQ applications will be opened on **12.09.2022** after 11:00 Hours. Further details maybe obtained through e-procurement portal.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.
DIPR/CP/KA/ITA/251/2022-23

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
SHIVAJINAGARA, BENGALURU.
NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of Professor and Associate Professor and Assistant Professor Posts in various Departments.
The details of the Number of Posts, Qualification, Experience, Pay Scale, Application Form, Application Fee and Other details may be obtained from Website: **https://sabvmcri.karnataka.gov.in**
Online application form available in Website: https://sabvmcri.karnataka.gov.in should be filled. Acknowledgment copy along with two sets of self attested documents should be submitted to this office **before 5.00 PM of 26-08-2022.** Application fee of **Rs. 2000/-** should be paid through online.
The date of interview Department wise will be intimated in the website. Relevant documents submitted after due date in person or through post will not be considered.
Ref. No: SABVMCRI/313/2022-23, Bengaluru **Date: 05-08-2022**

Category of Post	Total No. of Posts	Department	Roster	Local Cadre (371j) - 01
Professor	6	Biochemistry - 1, Pharmacology - 1, General Medicine - 1, OBG- 1, Anesthesiology - 1, Radio Diagnosis - 1	Residual Parent Cadre - 5	
			SC(M), GM(M), ST(M), GM(W), Cat-I(M)	GM(M)

Category of Post	Total No. of Posts	Department	Roster	Local Cadre (371j) - 02
Associate Professor	22	Anatomy - 1, Physiology - 1, Biochemistry - 1, Pharmacology - 1, Pathology - 3, Microbiology - 1, Forensic Medicine - 1, Community Medicine - 2, General Medicine - 2, Pediatrics - 1, General Surgery - 2, Orthopedics - 1, OBG - 1, Anesthesiology - 2, Radio Diagnosis - 1, Dentistry - 1	Residual Parent Cadre - 20	
			SC(M), GM(M), ST(M), GM(W), Cat-I(M), GM(R), II(A)(M), GM(PH), SC(W), GM(W), II(B)(W), GM(R), II(A)(W), GM(M), SC(R), GM(W), III(A)(M), GM(R), III(B)(M), GM(Ex)	GM(M) SC(M)

Ref. No: SABVMCRI/254/2022-23, Bengaluru **Date: 03-08-2022**

Category of Post	Total No. of Posts	Department	Roster	Local Cadre (371j) - 03
Assistant Professor	33	Anatomy - 2, Physiology - 2, Biochemistry - 2, Pharmacology - 1, Pathology - 1, Microbiology - 1, Forensic Medicine - 1, Community Medicine - 4, General Medicine - 3, Pediatrics - 1, Pulmonary Medicine - 1, Dermatology - 1, Psychiatry - 1, General Surgery - 3, Orthopedics - 1, ENT - 1, Ophthalmology - 1, OBG - 2, Anesthesiology - 2, Radio Diagnosis - 1, Dentistry - 1	Residual Parent Cadre - 30	
			SC(M), GM(M), ST(M), GM(W), Cat-I(M), GM(R), II(A)(M), GM(PH), SC(W), GM(W), 2B(W), GM(R), 2A(W), GM(M), SC(R), GM(W), 3A(M), GM(R), 3B(M), GM(Ex), 2A(R), GM(W), SC(PH), GM(W), 2A(PH), GM(R), SC(W), GM(KM), II(A)(W), GM(W)	SC(M) GM(M) ST(M)

DIPR/CP/1750/Advert/2022-23
Sd/- Director Cum Dean SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Uncle Volte-face

Nitish Kumar will find convincing voters more difficult than finding allies

Nitish Kumar has done it again – a volte-face. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and now the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, used to call the Janata Dal (U) chief, *paltu chacha* – 'uncle turnaround'. In his latest U-turn, Mr. Kumar has joined hands with Mr. Yadav, five years after they parted ways, and turned the tables on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the process. According to the JD(U), the BJP was scheming to split it and sabotage Mr. Kumar's government from the inside. The BJP has dismissed this allegation, pointing out that it could not have formed a government even if the JD(U) were to split. Mr. Kumar has won this round in the game of smoke and mirrors that he has had with the BJP, and earned himself a pat on the back from the anti-BJP camp. But his cleverness and manoeuvring skills may not be lauded by the people of Bihar whose sights might be more fixated on his political trapeze act – after being with the BJP for long, he fought the 2015 Assembly elections with the RJD, and split with it in 2017 to return to the BJP's embrace. Politics makes for strange bedfellows, but Mr. Kumar has stretched the limits of ideological infidelity. He had accused the RJD of corruption in defence of his split with it in 2017. His explanation for walking out of the alliance with the BJP that won the election in 2020 is unlikely to convince people.

Twice in five years, Mr. Kumar changed partners, both the times trampling over the mandate entrusted to him by the people of Bihar. Those in the Opposition camp who see this blatant opportunism as hope of an anti-BJP politics ahead of 2024 are clutching at straws. At the moment, all that the new alliance of JD(U) and RJD along with the Congress and the Left parties achieves is their survival in the immediate term. The road to 2024 and beyond is a long one from here, and there is little that is predictable about Mr. Kumar en route. A lot will depend on how supporters of the individual partners of the alliance respond to this abrupt realignment, and how the JD(U) and the RJD respond to the signals from below. Though the BJP has suffered a setback, a new window has opened for it in Bihar, as the sole claimant of all anti-incumbency votes. Central investigative agencies could get active against key figures in the new ruling coalition, but a more reasonable thing for the BJP to do is to be more respectful of its partners and opponents. As the Shiv Sena and the JD(U) will affirm, the BJP as a friend is more dangerous than the BJP as an enemy. The BJP seems intent on expanding its base at the expense of friends and foes alike. While this is good as a long-term strategy, it runs the risk of undermining established power equations and coalition governments in the near term. And in politics, as in other aspects of life, there is no long-term future if one is unable to survive in the short term.

Fair and square

Uzbekistan and Ukraine won the team events, but India showcased its talent to the fullest

The 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad, which concluded at the historical town of Mamallapuram near Chennai on Tuesday, will be talked about for a long time, for all the right reasons. It was originally slated to be held in Russia in 2020, but the coronavirus pandemic forced a postponement. Then, Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted the world chess governing body, FIDE, to look for a new venue for what is the game's most prestigious and largest team event. Chennai was chosen as the host in March but the visitors to the Olympiad – there were thousands of them every day – would have been surprised to learn that the event, featuring more than 1,700 participants from 186 countries, was being staged at such a short notice. FIDE's managing director Dana Reizniece-Ozola, who is a former Minister of Economics and Finance in the government of Latvia, besides being a champion chess player, praised India for completing what she called a mission impossible. The ball got rolling when the All India Chess Federation's proposal was accepted by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin. To its credit, the Tamil Nadu government was willing to spend more than ₹100 crore on a sport that is not anywhere nearly as glamorous as cricket or football. In 2013, the Tamil Nadu government had conducted at Chennai the World chess championship match between local boy Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen, but the size and logistics of that event cannot be compared with that of the Olympiad.

Nine years later, when big-time chess returned to his home town, Anand had become less busy as a player and was more of a mentor, columnist and, before the Olympiad was over, FIDE's new deputy president. But the five-time world champion had single-handedly revolutionised Indian chess so much so that it could afford to field three teams at the Olympiad. Two of them – India 2 in the open section and India 1 in the women's – went on to win the bronze medals, living up to India's growing reputation as a powerhouse in world chess. India won another seven individual medals to cap off its greatest Olympiad campaign ever. Many of those medals were won by teenagers. Youngsters such as D. Gukesh, Nihal Sarin, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Raunak Sadhwani promise even greater things for Indian chess. There was unprecedented interest in chess from the public and the media, which will do a world of good to the game. Uzbekistan won the men's team event but perhaps the greatest story of the Chess Olympiad was not authored by either Uzbekistan or India, but by a group of five women from war-torn Ukraine. The gold they won should brighten up the sombre mood back home; it also reflects sport's indomitable spirit.

COVID-19, arguably, has become endemic in India

It is time to deal with COVID-19 just like any other health condition and integrate interventions in general health service

CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

The infectious disease 'outbreaks' or 'epidemics' or 'pandemics' share a fate – there is a day when the majority of them run their course and fade away. However, a small proportion (of epidemics or pandemics) transitions to the stage of endemicity, i.e., a level of transmission which is not considered to be a major concern by the public or health authorities. It has been 29 months since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. However, new COVID-19 cases are still continuing to be reported from different parts of the world, including India, on a regular basis. In fact, the numbers of daily new COVID-19 cases in many countries are more than what had been reported at the peak of the national waves in those countries before the emergence of Omicron as a variant of concern. However, the severity of COVID-19 infections is low and the burden of health services due to intensive care unit and hospital admission even lower. COVID-19 vaccination coverage is increasing and, in many countries, COVID-19 related restrictions have either been removed completely or relaxed to a large extent.

Much opinion

After the third wave in January 2022, India saw the lowest number of daily new COVID-19 cases in March and April this year. However, since then, daily cases have spiked to around 18,000 a day. In fact, in the last two months every rise and fall in daily cases in India revives the discussion on whether COVID-19 continues to remain pandemic or has become endemic. Yet, consensus is missing. Part of the reason is that the discourse is dominated by opinion and there has been insufficient attention on an objective assessment of what constitutes the endemic stage or endemicity.

An important point to remember is that the terms, outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics reflect only the geographical spread. Outbreaks are a localised spread while an epidemic is when a disease affects a large geographical area within a country or a few countries. A pandemic is when multiple countries in different regions of the world are affected. The severity of the disease has no or very limited linkage with this classification and a disease could be mild; but if it is widespread, it could be termed a pandemic. COVID-19 began as an outbreak in China, became epidemic afterwards when more countries were affected, and then, finally, was declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. It was not linked to the severity of disease. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), in 2002-04, was a very serious disease, with one in 10 people who were affected dying; it was not declared a pandemic because severity does not determine this classification.

Here to stay

New diseases usually do not disappear completely. Chikungunya, dengue and many respiratory viruses usually stay within populations once they enter a population. Twenty-nine months into the pandemic, there is consensus that SARS-CoV-2 will stay with humanity for long, possibly for years and even decades. Cases are being reported from all countries and parts of the world and are likely to be reported in the time ahead. In this situation, it is important to ask how diseases transition from epidemic or pandemic to the endemic state.

We usually go back to history to get such answers. However, in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, historical references are not very useful. The end points of the pandemics prior to the 18th century were determined retrospectively,

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

when it was relatively easy to conclude a defined year. Then, the infections and cases in three major influenza pandemics in the 20th century (1918-20, 1957 and 1967-68) were identified based on symptoms; laboratory testing was not available for the pandemic in 1918-20 and was very limited in subsequent ones. In fact, in the 1918-20 flu pandemic, even the virus was not identified (it was first identified in 1933). If those clinical criteria of yesteryears are applied in ongoing COVID-19 cases which are now either mild and/or asymptomatic (thanks to vaccination and natural infection), one can conclude that the COVID-19 epidemic is over in many countries.

One of the ways to differentiate between 'pandemic' and 'endemic' is the 'socio-economic' impact. Pandemics are not merely health events but also encompass the social and economic implications of infections and diseases. For nearly two years, a large number of SARS-CoV-2 infections were happening in a short period of time – by a novel virus in a population which was completely immunologically naive – illnesses required hospitalisation and health facilities were overwhelmed. The infections, illnesses and hospitalisations understandably resulted in fear, panic and economic and social disruption. The interventions to halt the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, i.e., lockdowns, quarantines, national and international travel bans and school closure were equally unprecedented. There was a loss for many in terms of their sources of income after the ensuing social disruption and economic slowdown. Clearly, the impact was not restricted to those who tested COVID-19 positive; it has affected everyone and every member of society.

The risk of infection and disease under COVID-19, till early 2022, was unknown, and the outcome unpredictable. Two and half years into the pandemic – the risk of getting COVID-19 continues and will always be greater than zero, for long. However, there is better understanding now of who will get severe diseases. The risk of the social and economic impacts due to COVID-19 is minimal and close to zero. In such a backdrop, it is fair to conclude that while the health challenges of SARS-CoV-2 remain, the socio-economic impact is blunted. It is a good starting point to believe that the COVID-19 pandemic in India has moved to its endemic stage. However, that is not the same as saying that the pandemic is over. In epidemiology and public health, context (local setting, infection rate and vaccine coverage) determines the disease spread. Therefore, in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, every country would reach an endemic stage at different points of time. Countries that had higher vaccination coverage and higher natural infection (such as India) are likely to reach this stage early. Countries with low natural infection and vaccination coverage (as in Africa) would reach an endemic stage a little later.

A disease perspective

There is another dimension to the pandemic and endemic debate. Since pandemics have a social impact, the decision on when a country has reached an endemic stage is also determined by societal perspective of 'the acceptable risk'. There are a number of countries across the world where societies have returned to 'normalcy mode' even though the per million daily cases in many settings are higher than cases at the peak of earlier waves. The United States has returned to a 'no mandatory COVID-19 test' for inbound passengers. In Europe, many countries are back to full normalcy.

Here is another example. HIV/AIDS was an epidemic in the mid-1990s. Now, HIV/AIDS cases are reported regularly but it is endemic because all societies/countries have agreed to it being an acceptable risk. Let us examine the data angle as well. In June-July 2022, around 30 deaths are being reported every day on average in people who tested COVID-19 (but did not necessarily die due to COVID-19). These numbers need to be seen in perspective. In India, an estimated 26,000 to 27,000 people die every day due to a variety of reasons which includes even old age. These daily deaths include 120 deaths every day due to pregnancy-related causes; 350 to 600 deaths in road accidents; 1,400 attributed to tuberculosis; around 2,000 deaths in children younger than five years due to different reasons, and 4,000 deaths every day attributed to tobacco and other related causes. Every effort should be made to avoid any death that is preventable. No society should be overly fixated over only one disease or health challenges. Clearly, COVID-19 is one of the many challenges and cannot continue to be the top and the only health priority.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic at the global level does not mean every country needs to have similar interventions in its response. India, arguably, has reached a stage where COVID-19 can be considered to be in its endemic stage. It is time to deal with the COVID-19 just like any other health condition and integrate COVID-19 interventions in general health services. It is time people do a self-assessment of their COVID-19 risk and undertake voluntary precautionary measures. COVID-19 vaccination should become part of the routine immunisation programme. There are other health challenges that are waiting to be tackled.

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya is a primary-care physician, infectious diseases specialist and vaccines expert

Words of wisdom for the Congress's 'last Mughals'

With only paper champions defending the idea of India, the party must self-reflect critically to fathom its predicament

RAHUL MUKHERJI

On the eve of India's 75th year of Independence, we the people of India are groaning under the poison of Hindutva and a rudderless Opposition. Collectively, these two factors are overseeing the destruction of India's political liberalism. There is little hope for constitutional values such as *sarva dharma sama bhava* (equal respect for all religions under the law), and the same treatment for all citizens. Quite tragically, we are in a situation where India could morph into a Hindu Pakistan, as was willed by the assassins of Mohandas Gandhi.

Political development

India's foundational figures had understood the importance of religious diversity. Swami Vivekananda, the patron saint of the Indian youth, had argued for the necessity of religious diversity. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army had consistently worked with all the faiths to defeat the British. Bose's closest associates were Muslims. The experience of the struggle for freedom was enshrined in the constitutional idea of India, that was created by Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, among numerous other stalwarts.

The legacy of the freedom struggle was the fundamental reason India shocked the world by turning into a resilient democracy with abundant poverty, where civilian control over the military was established. The Congress Party, led by Sonia Gandhi, largely built on those foundations. It not only engendered a rapidly growing and globalising India but even consolidated citizenship rights and welfare. India's growth even surpassed China's during the first decade of the new millennium, while historic financial and human investments were made to redistribute that wealth. These remarkable achievements are forgotten today.

India's Congress problem

Today, we find only paper champions defending that idea of India. The once mighty Congress Party, the bulwark of the Indian nationalist movement, is in a state of such disarray that even Opposition parties consider it to be a liability. How is it that a party that governed India for nearly 60 years has been reduced to a sideshow? To comprehend this predicament and evolve, the Party must self-reflect critically on four salient factors.

First, the Congress Party has a leadership problem. It has much to do with those who control the reins of the party in the name of the Gandhis. Sonia Gandhi's managers such as Ahmed Patel, Motilal Vora, Janardan Dwivedi, Oscar Fernandes and Ambika Soni were politically grounded, and well versed with realpolitik.

Rahul Gandhi, on the other hand, wanted to assume the role of a democratiser within the party by experimenting with the party's youth and student wings. Yet, he has ironically replicated the very high command model of his mother and grandmother, with the difference that his team is politically inept and rudderless. K.C. Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Randeep Surjewala do not possess the political acumen of a Digvijay Singh or an Ashok Gehlot. None of these and other advisers have honed the art of winning

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

elections.

Unsurprisingly therefore, a report recommending radical reforms chaired by the former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan was summarily assigned to the dustbin of history by loyalists. The recent recommendations made at the Chintan Shivir (Reflection Conclave) held in Udaipur earlier this year (May 13-15, 2022) may see a similar fate. Former Delhi Chief Minister, the late Sheila Dikshit's son, Sandeep Dikshit, was not even invited to the conclave, among significant others. That the Congress Party would refuse to introspect after the catastrophic political losses is mind boggling.

Second, while experimentation with political tactics is healthy, ideological confusion is not. Today's Congress high command swings between the extreme right (flirting with soft Hindutva) and the extreme left (flirting with radical anti-establishment ideas). The right-wing leadership matches Hindutva by visiting temples, flaunting the sacred thread, and, soft peddling on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the dilution of Article 370, and numerous attacks on minorities. Such a disposition of the three Gandhis would have saddened Jawaharlal Nehru.

On the other hand, the Congress's left faction wishes to create an anti-corporate and ideologically pure Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) type cadre, without hankering for political power (till 2029 or even 2034). It is this faction that has persuaded the leadership to distrust supposedly power-hungry Congress leaders, and replace them instead with outsiders such as Kanhaiya Kumar, Jignesh Mewani, Alpesh Thakore, Hardik Patel, Nana Patole, Revanth Reddy, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Siddharamaiah, etc.

A clear political narrative will need a new Congress leader who can create a consensus out of this maze. Such a leader would need the intellectual sophistication to weave a pro-poor, secular and liberal outlook with. Given that India has a youthful population, this leader would need to be young and energetic as well.

Third, successful political leadership demands a combination of charisma and astute political management. The charismatic leader can draw the crowds while the political manager strategises elections, makes the machinery of government work, and ensures adherence to the party's ideological agenda.

Nehru had a Sardar Patel to work with. While Nehru articulated the idea of India, Patel ran the party. This model was replicated under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, which Dr. Manmohan Singh ran, while Ahmed Patel managed the party. The same can be said regarding the political success of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

Even though Rahul Gandhi has declined the throne of the Congress President since 2019, his team calls the shots, supposedly at his behest. Hence, in the public eye, he and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have run the party to the ground. The party was absent from almost all the major protests, on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the National Register of Citizens, farmer's remonstrations, or the Agnipath scheme for the armed forces. In contrast, the Congress chose to protest Rahul Gandhi's interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate in the alleged *National Herald* scam.

And, finally, the Congress's enviable connections within the state and society have collapsed. The party once commanded an enormous network within the administration, media, civil society, and even with foreign governments. It could raise substantial funds. This infrastructure was a resource that the party could leverage to support less well-endowed parties in a coalition. If it cannot deliver on all these, why should Opposition parties work with the Congress? Yet, the team led by Rahul Gandhi has failed in strengthening old bonds and creating new ties. This is why the Congress's sphere of influence is shrinking rapidly.

The future

The million-dollar question is: where will the Congress go? Will the party gerrymander its internal polls due in September 2022 till a Gandhi is reanointed as president? Or, will it once again delay the election hoping that Rahul Gandhi changes his mind after the *Bharat Jodo* Yatra (now from September)? In that case, the Gandhis, like Bahadur Shah Zafar and his sons, might well be the Congress's last Mughals. However, they still have the time to invest in the right persons, so that the Congress Party can move forward. This is the best service that the Gandhis can perform for the party, and for preserving much that is precious in India's civilisational journey.

Rahul Mukherji is Professor and Chair, Modern Politics of South Asia, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Bihar politics

In severing ties with his alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and joining hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) now, Nitish Kumar has yet again proved the political line that "there is neither a permanent foe nor a permanent friend in politics" (Page 1, "Nitish Kumar dumps BJP for RJD, set to form govt. afresh", August 10). Perhaps he ought to have tendered his resignation and sought fresh elections, maybe in alliance with the RJD and other like-minded parties.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

■ Sadly, by his frequent flip-flops, Mr. Kumar scores very low in the "reliability quotient" despite his clean image. To remain a member of a credible anti-BJP force, he must focus on governance in association with his allies. The BJP too must tone down its rhetoric of targeting and ridiculing the regional parties. It was only recently that the party's chief 'threatened' to eliminate all regional parties, which was totally undemocratic.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

A pat for T.N.

The just concluded 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Chennai has proved among other things that India is capable of conducting a major event. The mission was planned meticulously and executed without flaw, also due to the keen interest taken by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin.

ANNA MARY YVONNE,
Chennai

■ The Olympiad was a well-conducted event from beginning to end. There is no doubt that the Tamil Nadu government and the Chief Minister have brought laurels to the State.

C.A.C. MURUGAPPAN,
Kothamangalam, Tamil Nadu

A new global vision for G20

A shift is required from commitments on aid and trade to collaboration around science and technology

MUKUL SANWAL

G20 leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy, in 2021. • AFP

While India has taken a clear view of the role of the G20, there is concern that the agenda, themes and focus areas which India will set for 2023 lack vision.

The G20 plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. It recognises that global prosperity is interdependent and economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked. The challenge is to craft new approaches to overcome the acute global discord.

However, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, in 190 meetings, India will strengthen international support for priorities of vital importance to developing countries in diverse social and economic sectors, ranging from energy, agriculture, trade, digital economy, health and environment to employment, tourism, anti-corruption and women empowerment, including in focus areas that impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Without specificity, India has lost a chance to nudge the G20 and regional organisations towards its focus areas.

Collaboration not commitments

The fractured world makes tradeoffs, the essence of current multilateralism, difficult and suggests a new model of international cooperation.

First, multilateral commitments on aid and trade are faltering. Governance in a world that is steadily becoming more equal needs institutional innovation. This is because the role of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in securing cooperation between donor and recipient country groups is losing centrality. There are now three socio-economic systems – the G7, China-Russia, and India and the others – and they will jointly set the global agenda.

Second, Ukraine's long shadow, rival finance, the expanding influence of the trade and value chains dominated by the U.S. and China, and the reluctance of developing countries to take sides in the strategic competition as they have a real choice requires fresh thinking on the nature and form of collaboration from the G20.

Third, the primary role of the G20, which accounts for 95% of the world's patents, 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and 65% of the world population, needs to be reoriented to prevent a clash of ideas to the detriment of the global good. The solution lies in a new conceptual model seeking agreement on an agenda limited to principles rather than long negotiated anodyne text. The Rio Declaration of 1992 is an appropriate model. For example, incorporating the three major priorities of each of the groups as part of a global agenda will inform smaller groupings of countries which have issue-based linkages and overlaps between them instead of struggling for meaningful agreement on single concerns of groups which are not even talking to each other.

Common concerns

India should seek collaboration on limited focus areas around science and technology, building on resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and other multilateral bodies.

A new conceptual frame is needed. First, the presumed equality that we are all in the same boat, recognised in the case of climate change, needs to be expanded to other areas with a global impact redefining 'common concerns'. Second, emerging economies are no longer to be considered the source of problems needing external solutions but source of solutions to shared problems. Third, the BRICS provides an appropriate model for governance institutions suitable for the 21st century where a narrow group of states dominated by one power will not shape the agenda.

The starting point should be building on the global consensus in the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights 1993 reaffirming the indivisibility of all human rights. There is a growing recognition of economic and social rights – for example, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ensuring adequate food, housing, education, health, water and sanitation and work for all should guide international cooperation. Principles of common but differentiated responsibilities for improving the quality of life of all households can guide deliberations in other fora on problems that seem intractable in multilateralism based on trade and aid.

Second, the global agenda has been tilted towards investment, whereas science and technology are the driving force for economic diversification, sustainably urbanising the world, and ushering the hydrogen economy and new crop varieties as the answer to both human well-being and global climate change. Innovation supports dematerialising production and consumption and moving towards renewable sources of energy. The shift in lifestyles in the post-war period created urban jobs in services and retail that made up for the losses to high productivity manufacturing, and climate change. A forum to exchange experiences on societal benefits and growth as complementary goals would lead to fresh thinking on employment and environment.

Third, harnessing the potential of the digital-information-technology revolution requires redefining digital access as a "universal service" that goes beyond physical connectivity to sharing specific opportunities available. For global society to reap the fruits of the new set of network technologies, open access software should be offered for more cost-effective service delivery options, good governance and sustainable development.

Fourth, space is the next frontier for finding solutions to problems of natural resource management ranging from climate change-related natural disasters, supporting agricultural innovation to urban and infrastructure planning. Analysing Earth observation data will require regional and international collaboration through existing centres which have massive computing capacities, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Open access to geospatial data, data products and services and lower costs of geospatial information technology facilities do not require huge financial resources.

Fifth, public health has to learn from the COVID-19 fiasco with infectious diseases representing a market failure. A major global challenge is the rapidly growing antimicrobial resistance which needs new antibiotics and collaboration between existing biotechnology facilities.

Strategic thinking

Sixth, overriding priority to development suggests avoiding strategic competition. Countries in the region will support building on the 1971 UNGA Declaration designating for all time the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and non-extension into the region of rivalries and conflicts that are foreign to it.

Lastly, a Global Financial Transaction Tax, considered by the G20 in 2011, needs to be revived to be paid to a Green Technology Fund for Least Developed Countries.

Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat

The grammar of VIP security

If checks are carried out before the arrival of the VIP and access control is ensured after, assassinations are largely preventable

E. DAMODAR

There are parallels between the assassinations of Shinzo Abe and Rajiv Gandhi. Both of them were shot during an election campaign. Abe, a former Prime Minister of Japan, was killed by Tetsuya Yamagami who reportedly held a grudge against a "specific organisation", possibly a religious group, that he believed was linked to Abe. Gandhi was killed by Dhanu, an operative of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which was apprehensive of the redeployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka. The details of a VIP's security vary depending on place, time, and the stature and threat perception of the protectee. However, these details lend themselves to a few basic principles, called the grammar of VIP security. This grammar can be subsumed under two broad principles: anti-sabotage checks and access control.

Two broad principles

Anti-sabotage checks precede the arrival of the protectee and are intended to ensure the sterility of the place. This principle is strictly adhered to at the protectee's place of stay and at the place of function. When the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Hyderabad was due for inauguration, the guests included Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. The anti-sabotage sweep was to be carried out at D-12, D-6 and D-2. The security wing disallowed the organisers from carrying out further works at D-12. A retired Director General of Police (DGP), who was employed at the GMR Group which owns the airport, asked the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for some relaxation. The DCP had worked under him before, but would not oblige.

Access control is a process put in place after the protectee's arrival. Access control ensures that no unidentified, unchecked and unauthorised person is allowed within the vicinity of the protectee. By unidentified, we mean that no person should be permitted to be within the proximity of the protectee unless they are known and their antecedents screened. For instance, a bullet-proof car had to be used during the German Chancellor's visit to Hyderabad. The State had bullet-resistant Ambassador cars. The German Embassy got a private bullet-proof Benz car. The owner of the car, a well-known industrialist, assured the authorities of the antecedents of the driver. But since the driver was not thoroughly known and was therefore regarded unchecked, a police driver was given training in that car and deployed.

Similarly, unchecked people are not allowed near the protectee, however well-known they are and if even if they have an appointment with the protectee. They must be checked. Once, I.K. Gujral, then Prime Minister, was staying in the Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhavan. D.R. Karthikeyan, an Indian Police Service officer, had an appointment with him. When Mr. Karthikeyan got up to meet him, a commandant of the CRPF accompanied him with a bouquet. A local security personnel objected to the commandant entering with an unchecked bouquet.

Unauthorised means that even though the visitor may be known and has been checked, they must have a purpose to be so close to the protectee. Once, P.V. Narasimha Rao was on the dais to felicitate Swamy Sivananda at an auditorium in Visakhapatnam. His son wanted to stand next to him on the dais, but was not allowed. The rationale was that there was no reason for the son to be so close to the Prime Minister as it had already been decided who would be on the dais.

Attention to detail

A few ancillary aspects entail scrupulous adherence too. First, security forces need to be sensitised before every visit as every visit is unique. As the protectees frequently visit capitals and pilgrimage spots, security forces tend to become complacent. Second, every visit is dynamic, even if it is to a secure place and a regularly visited one such as a Raj Bhavan. Third, security arrangements are like a chain and a chain is as strong as its weakest link. Fourth, security considerations are more important than the elegance of the place of function or stay or approach path of the VIP. If the security principles are consolidated into a science, attacks and assassinations are largely preventable.

Both anti-sabotage checks and access control were poor in the cases of Abe and Gandhi. Yamagami was within three metres of Abe. He was unchecked and his gun undetected. Dhanu was allowed in the VIP enclosure reportedly by the daughter of the Congress candidate, wrote Anirudhya Mitra in his book *90 Days*. He wrote: "[At Sriperumbudur], there were no metal detectors and no frisking at the Venue. Nalini and Shubha escorted the human bomb Dhanu." It is imperative that the Blue Book and the Yellow Book, the two bibles of VIP security, incorporate the principles of security as inviolable.

E. Damodar is a retired IPS officer

DATA POINT

BSNL's distress call answered, but towering issues prevail

A shrinking subscriber base and extremely low revenue per user are sinking the state-run telecom

VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN & JASMIN NIHALANI

On July 27, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹1.64 lakh crore package to revive the state-owned telecom firm, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. While private players are gearing up to deploy 5G services, the government has allocated ₹44,993 crore for administrative allotment of the 4G spectrum. The revival package also includes funding for financially unviable rural wire line services where BSNL is the only effective player.

The government expects that with the implementation of this recent package, BSNL will turn around and earn a profit by FY27. The firm last made a profit in 2008-09. In the last 13 years, the telecom has suffered losses amounting to ₹1.02 trillion.

To realise the goal of turning BSNL profitable in the next five years, a crucial step would be to expand the falling subscriber base. At present, the subscriber base of Jio and Airtel is three times that of BSNL's. Not only is the subscriber base falling, but the revenue BSNL makes from each user is also a fraction of what private service providers get. The average revenue earned per user by BSNL is 2.5 times lower than what private players make.

An earlier bailout package announced in 2019 helped trim BSNL's bloated employee benefits expense, halving the losses incurred by FY21. However, the revenue remained stagnant for four years after recording a major fall in FY19. Expanding the subscriber base and improving the revenue earned per user would take care of the shrinking revenue.

In 2005, BSNL commanded a market share of 21%, the same as Bharti Airtel and slightly higher than Reliance Communications. By 2022, BSNL's share reduced to 10% while three private players controlled the rest of the market. Chart 1 shows the market share of wireless subscribers.

Chart 2 shows the average revenue earned per user per month (ARPU) by BSNL and other private players. In March 2016, BSNL's ARPU was ₹118 while private companies earned ₹126. The dirt cheap tariffs with which Jio entered the market forced other players to reduce their charges. This impacted the average revenue of both BSNL and other private service providers. However, the state-run telecom's ARPU took a bigger hit. When Jio started raising tariffs, private players followed suit while BSNL did not. Consequently, the ARPU of private players improved (₹136) and surpassed the pre-Jio levels but BSNL (₹53) did not catch up.

Dwindling subscribers coupled with relatively low earnings from existing customers took a toll on BSNL's revenue. From ₹40,000 crore in FY06, revenue halved to ₹19,052 crore in FY22. While revenue dipped, expenses increased to over ₹30,000 crore and remained above the mark for 15 years. Chart 3 shows BSNL's revenues and expenses in ₹ crore. As a result, BSNL has been consistently making losses for the last 13 years. Chart 4 shows profits and losses made by BSNL in ₹ crore.

Until FY20, employee benefits formed 40% of BSNL's expenses. Following the 2019 rescue package, a bulk of which was used for funding the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the workforce was cut down from 1.8 lakh in FY18 to 64,500 in FY21. Yet, BSNL's share of employee benefits in expenses is higher than the share spent by private companies. Chart 5 shows the share of employee benefits in total expenses.

BSNL played a crucial role in improving teledensity (connections per 100 people) in rural and far-flung areas. Private players have replaced BSNL in the rural wireless segment, but BSNL continues to be the lone operator in the rural wire line segment. The rural wireless teledensity and broadband subscriber rate (per 100 people) has remained flat in the last five years even as the urban-rural gap keeps widening. So, BSNL's renewed focus on rural areas as a part of its social obligation may help bridge the gap.

How BSNL bled

From a joint-market leader to the smallest player, BSNL's telecom journey has been thorny. However, with the latest relief package, the State player is planning a come back. A dwindling subscriber base is the first hurdle facing the firm

CHART 1 | The chart shows the **market share (in %)** of service providers in the wireless subscriber segment

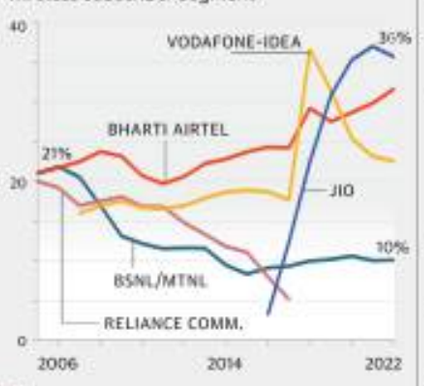


CHART 2 | The chart shows the **avg. revenue earned per user per month (in ₹)** by all pvt. service providers (—) and BSNL/MTNL (—) in wireless services

CHART 3 | The chart shows BSNL's **revenues and expenses in ₹ '000 crore**

CHART 4 | The chart shows the **profits and losses incurred by BSNL in ₹ crore**

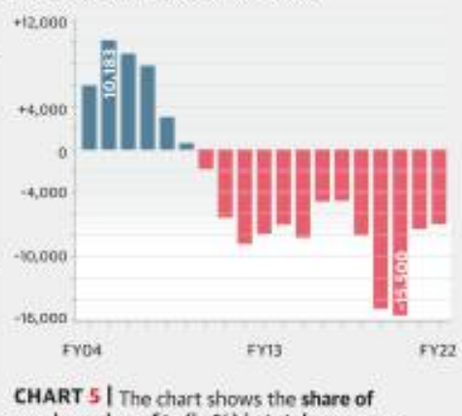
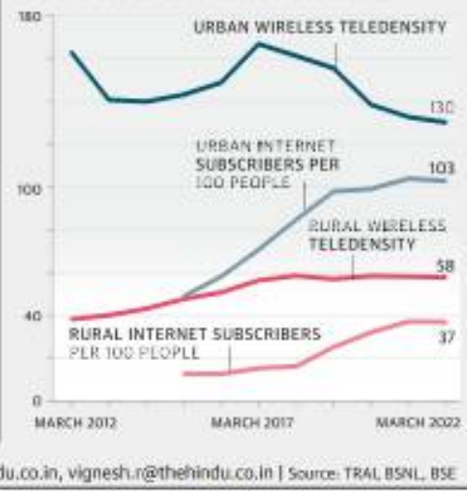


CHART 5 | The chart shows the **share of employee benefits (in %) in total expenses** incurred by various service providers

CHART 6 | The chart shows the rural and urban wireless teledensity (wireless connections per 100 people) and internet/broadband subscribers per 100 people in rural and urban areas. The urban-rural divide has widened over time



nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in, vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in | Source: TRAI, BSNL, BSE

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1972

Political sanctions against hoarders

New Delhi, Aug. 10: The Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha to-day that he expected the new public distribution system to make, within weeks, an impact on the now rising prices of essential commodities and appealed for co-operation from all political parties. Intervening in the debate on the price situation, he pledged the Government to the use of not only the provisions of the law but also "political sanctions" against anti-social elements who have taken advantage of the delayed rains and fear of drought to hoard and to push up the prices. Mr. Chavan also promised that no production or distribution programme would lack funds even if it meant resort to further deficit financing. Mr. Chavan said the price situation was in part the economic price the country has had to pay for some of the political steps taken last year for which the Government had been lauded. He did not clarify this remark. The Finance Minister did not offer any apologies for the deficit financing which was criticised by many members but he asked the House to take note of the massive effort made by him to mobilise resources side by side with deficit financing. The Centre's effort to mobilise additional resources had yielded Rs. 2,900 crores not including the share of the States between 1969-70 and 1971-72 as against the Fourth Plan target of Rs. 2,100 crores for five years.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 11, 1922

Indo-Ceylon rates

Another Conference between the Traffic officials of the South Indian Railway and the Ceylon Government Railway was held on Sunday and yesterday in Colombo says the "Ceylon Daily News" of August 8. The S.I.R. was represented by Mr. Rowbotham, General Traffic Manager, who was accompanied by two clerks; and the C.G.R. by Mr. T.E. Dutton, Traffic Manager and Mr. J.J.F Felix, Assistant Traffic Manager. It is learnt that the main object of the Conference was the settlement of certain goods rates between Madras and Ceylon and vice versa. There were a good deal of discussion on this subject before a final agreement was arrived at. It is stated that these difficulties arise from time to time as there is keen competition in the goods rates between the South Indian Steamer Agencies and the S.I. ry; and that unless the rates are revised as occasion demands they would not keep in line with the fluctuations in the market rates.

FROM PAGE ONE

₹1.16 lakh cr. released to States to boost spending

The latest devolution indicates that the Centre has raised the monthly share for the States significantly from about ₹48,000 crore that was shared with them in April.

"The assessed amount released so far works out to 34% of our estimate for tax devolution for 2022-23, and marks a sizeable 49% growth over the corresponding period last year," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

On May 31, the Centre released GST compensation dues of about ₹87,000 crore to the States for April and May, even though GST compensation cess accruals at the time were just ₹25,000 crore.

The Finance Ministry had said that this was also aimed at assisting the States in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes, especially the expenditure on capital, is carried out successfully during the financial year.

The States are now owed ₹35,266 crore on account of GST compensation for June 2022, the last month for which the States were promised assured revenues as part of the compact to transition to the GST regime in 2017.

The Finance Ministry has said those dues will be paid from collections of the GST compensation cess, whose levy has been extended till March 31, 2026.

Nitish, Tejashwi take oath, Cabinet expansion soon

"I'm not an aspirant for the Prime Minister's post but in 2024 all (Opposition parties) should come together," Mr. Kumar said.

On the difference between then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mr. Modi, Mr. Kumar said, "Vajpayee had given us so much of love, warmth and respect that we cannot ever forget but the situation has quite changed now."

Asked about what went wrong with the BJP, Mr. Kumar said, "You all know it very well...I was not speaking to you all for the past month and a half. My partymen will let you know everything." Mr. Kumar once again asserted that he didn't want to become Chief Minister in 2020 but "there was pressure from all sides so I accepted the post".

"You all must be knowing how many seats JD(U) had got in 2015 Assembly election [70 seats] and how much in the 2020 poll [43]. Why my party was reduced to such a low figure? A lot of things were going on, so my partymen decided to snap ties with the BJP and I went with their decision," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders sat on dharna at the party headquarters on Wednesday to condemn Mr. Kumar's "betrayal". "The BJP made him Chief Minister five times but he [Mr. Kumar] betrayed us. The people of Bihar will give him a befitting reply," senior State BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said.

Justice Lalit appointed Chief Justice of India

Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the top court Bench from the Bar.

Justice S.M. Sikri was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court Bench in March 1964 and went on to become the 13th CJI in January 1971.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August, 2022," a Law Ministry notification said.

Justice Ramana congratulated Justice Lalit on his appointment and wished him a glorious tenure as the next Chief Justice of India.

Justice Lalit has been part of several landmark judgments, including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant triple talaq among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional. In the triple talaq verdict, while the then CJI J.S. Khehar and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting on hold the judgment for six months and asking the government to come out with a law to that effect, Justices Kurian Joseph, R.F. Nariman and Lalit held the practice as violative of the Constitution.

Before his elevation as a judge, he was appointed a special public prosecutor for the CBI to conduct trial in the 2G spectrum case.

SC grants Varavara Rao bail on medical grounds

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted regular bail to Telugu poet-activist Varavara Rao on medical grounds in the Bhima Koregaon case.

A Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit considered the factual aspects of the case to grant him bail, including that he is 82 years of age and his medical condition had still not improved.

He is now on interim bail. He had sought regular bail on health grounds. "Not everybody is in the pink of their health in their eighties. He has never misused his liberty while on bail," the Bench observed.

The top court noted that Mr. Rao was taken into custody in the case in August 2018 and has actually spent two-and-a-half years in custody leaving aside the limited interim bail granted to him in February 2021.

The Bench said other factual details lead to granting him regular bail in the case, including that the authorities were still to apprehend some of the other accused persons.

The court noted that though a chargesheet has been filed, the case has still not been taken up for framing of charges. Besides, various applications filed by the accused persons seeking discharge were still pending consideration by the lower court. All this may delay the trial further. "Considering the totality of the circumstances, in our view, the appellant is entitled to the relief of bail," Justice Lalit pronounced the order for the Bench, which also comprised Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia. The court deleted the conditions limiting the relief in terms of time when interim bail was granted to Mr. Rao in 2021.

However, the Bench ordered that Mr. Rao should not leave the area of Greater Mumbai without prior permission or misuse the liberty granted to him now.

Aviation safety regulator opens door for transgender pilots

In a first, DGCA formulates medical guidelines for aspirants to obtain licence

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In a big win for aspiring pilot Adam Harry and the entire transgender community, the aviation safety regulator has for the first time framed new medical guidelines that allow transgender persons who have completed gender transition therapy or surgery to be declared fit to fly.

An ongoing hormone therapy will also not be a ground for disqualification.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday issued guidelines for aeromedical evaluation of transgender persons for obtaining medical clearance for all categories of pilot's licence – private pilot's licence, student pilot licence and commercial pilot licence.

These say that candidates who have completed their hormone therapy and gender affirmation surgery more than five years ago will be declared medically fit provided they clear screening for mental health in accordance with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

> This is the first time the DGCA has changed its stance for transgender persons. This will not only encourage other transgender persons dreaming to be pilots to come out of the closet, but everyone in the community to pursue the career of their choice. ADAM HARRY, aspiring pilot

If transgender applicants have completed the treatment within the past five years, they will have to undergo a psychological and psychiatric evaluation apart from providing a detailed report from their treating endocrinologist as well as a report from the surgeon, if there has been a surgery within the past year.

After an evaluation of these submissions, applicants can be declared fit. Where candidates are on a life-long hormone therapy, as in the case of 23-year-old Mr. Harry, they will be considered fit if they have reached a stable dose. In April 2020, an ongoing cross sex hormone therapy was cited as a ground for refusing medical clearance to Mr. Harry, who was asked to seek a review once he was "off medications", which virtually disqualified him for the rest of his life.

Where an aspirant has only recently started a hormone treatment, or has seen a change in the dose being administered, the person will be declared unfit for three months following which a review can be sought.

Some limitations

However, transgender pilots "may" have some limitations imposed such as being allowed to only fly as first officers (junior pilots) or when they are flying as pilot-in-command their co-pilot has to have 250 hours of flying on that particular type of aircraft or the co-pilot has to be a senior captain who is a trainer.

"I am very happy with the DGCA's decision. This is the first time the DGCA has changed its stance for transgender persons. This will not only encourage other transgender persons dreaming to be pilots to come out of the closet, but everyone in the community to pursue the career of their choice. It is a big win for the transgender community," Mr. Harry said.

The Hindu had reported on July 3 about Mr. Harry, who is the first transgender trainee pilot with a private pilot licence from South Africa, being unable to complete his training in India after the DGCA in April 2020 rejected his medical clearance needed to obtain a student's pilot licence.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment wrote to the DGCA on July 11 calling its policy "discriminatory" and in violation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019 and demanded "guidelines for licensing" for transgender persons.

Delhi Police to investigate all FIRs against Nupur: SC

Court extends immunity from arrest

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday transferred all first information reports (FIR) registered against former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma in the row over remarks against Prophet Muhammed to the Delhi Police.

Nupur Sharma

The Delhi Police would also investigate in case any FIRs are registered in future against Ms. Sharma, the court said.

A Special Bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala gave Ms. Sharma liberty to approach the Delhi High Court seeking to quash the cases against her.

The court refused a suggestion made by West Bengal counsel and senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy for a joint special investigation team to probe the case under the supervision of the top court.

The Bench said an FIR had been filed against Ms. Sharma in Delhi with the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police, and this specialised branch could carry on the probe in all the FIRs.

The IFSO could collect information necessary for its investigation from other States.

The Bench extended the interim protection from arrest granted to Ms. Sharma on July 19 to continue till the end of the investigation.

Ms. Guruswamy objected to Ms. Sharma's plea to transfer the case to the National Capital, arguing that the accused cannot be allowed to pick and choose the investigating authority.

"The maximum impact of her statements is caused in West Bengal. First FIR was in Maharashtra. Delhi is not on the list. Consider the nature of the issue which has caused an impact on our democracy and tainted the rule of law," she argued.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Ms. Sharma, countered that she had approached the top court on the face of threats to her life.

Three Lashkar militants killed in Budgam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, including self-proclaimed commander Lateef Rather, who is believed to be behind the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit employee and a local singer this year, were killed in an anti-militancy operation in Budgam district on Wednesday.

"Lateef Rather, alias Abdullah, killer of Rahul Bhat [a Kashmiri Pandit employee] and Amreen Bhat, were among the killed terrorists. He was involved in several terror crime cases, including several civilian killings and atrocities," Additional Director-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The security forces also averted a major tragedy by defusing an IED weighing over 25 kg in Pulwama district.

Mexico leader wants PM on peace panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has proposed the setting up of a commission comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi that will preside over five years of global truce in order to halt the various conflicts that are currently raging in the world.

The Commission of Global Notables will also include Pope Francis and the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. "I will make the proposal in writing. I will present it to the UN. I have been saying it and I hope the media will help us spread it," Mr. Obrador said.

'Credibility of UN sanctions regime at all-time low'

India takes aim at China, Pakistan and Afghanistan over 'double standards' against terrorism

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The credibility of the United Nations' sanctions regime is at an "all-time low", India said on Tuesday, taking aim at China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United Nations Secretariat over "selectivity" and "double standards" against terrorism.

Delivering a speech sharply critical of the UN processes, at a Security Council session on 'Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts', where she did not name the countries, India's UN envoy Ruchira Kamboj took exception to China's decision to place a hold on terror listings, the "glorification" of terror acts by Pakistan, and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan for providing shelter to terror groups, including ISIL-Khorasan which was behind the attacks on a Gurdwara in Kabul.

In particular, Ms. Kamboj slammed the UN Secretary-General's report on terrorism that had, in its section on threats in Central and South Asia, referred only to ISIL-K, and not to the allied groups that target India, which New Delhi has been providing information on.

"It is puzzling to us that the SG's report chose not to take notice of the activities of the several proscribed groups in this region, especially those that have been repeatedly targeting India. Selective filtering of inputs from member states is uncalled for," Ms. Kamboj said, adding that "the linkages between groups listed by the UNSC such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) pose a direct threat to the peace and stability of the region". In a reference to Dawood Ibrahim, the Ambassador's speech also warned that crime syndicates turning to terror received "state hospitality" in a "neighbouring country", despite being listed by the UNSC.

Ruchira Kamboj

Deep disappointment

India expressed deep disappointment with the UNSC 'sanctions regime' against al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIL), which was first put into place in the late 1990s and then updated as a part of the global war on terrorism. New Delhi has faced frequent blocks and 'technical holds' placed by Beijing in its attempts to add a number of terrorists to the UNSC-designated terrorist listings, including the top leadership of the LeT and the JeM based in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In May 2019, China removed a series of blocks on listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar, but then thwarted a more recent joint proposal by India and the U.S. to list LeT deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki, which is still pending a final decision. Sources said the government was preparing more such proposals to list other wanted terrorists, and was hoping that China, which has assumed UNSC presidency for the month of August, would not block those.

"The practice of placing holds and blocks on listing requests without giving any justification must end. It is most regrettable that genuine and evidence-based listing proposals pertaining to some of the most notorious terrorists in the world are being placed on hold. Double standards and continuing politicisation have rendered the credibility of the sanctions regime at an all-time low," Ms. Kamboj said. "We do hope that all members of the UNSC can pronounce together in one voice, sooner rather than later, when it comes to this collective fight against international terrorism," she added.

Ms. Kamboj also announced that India will host a special meeting of the UNSC's Counter-Terror Committee (CTC) in Delhi and Mumbai on October 28 and 29, to discuss new challenges such as cybercrime and terror financing through cryptowallets.

Kovind gave nod to 2019 M.P. legislation

It made dowry harassment, rioting, use of obscene words compoundable offences

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Former President Ram Nath Kovind, on the advice of the Union Home Ministry, in June assented to a 2019 legislation passed by the Madhya Pradesh Assembly that made the criminal offences of dowry harassment, rioting and use of obscene words compoundable offence. The Criminal Law (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2019, was introduced by the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in the Assembly on July 24, 2019, months before the government collapsed.

Mr. Kovind gave his assent to the Bill on June 28, people familiar with the matter said. The present Madhya Pradesh government did not withdraw the Bill after coming to power. The Home Ministry examines the Bills passed by the State Assemblies that may be repugnant with the Central laws before they get the President's assent to become a law.

The Madhya Pradesh Bill proposed amendments to several Sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill said it proposed to make offences under Section 498A of the IPC compoundable as the complaint in such offences was the outcome of a matrimonial dispute. "In spur of moment FIR [first information report] gets lodged. On many occasions after the cognisance of such offence the woman wants to make compromise in such offence but due to lack of provision they have to go a long way to High Court, which creates hindrance in resolving matrimonial dispute," it said.

It further said that the Madhya Pradesh Amendment Act of 1999 made Sections 147 (rioting), 294 (obscene songs or words in a public place) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC compoundable, but in 2009, the Union government amended the CrPC which again led to such offences becoming non-compoundable, leading to a backlog of cases in the court. "Consequence is that after compounding the main offences, cases are pending for long times unnecessarily in the court for adjudication... Therefore, it is desirable to again amend Section 320 of the CrPC to make aforesaid cases compoundable," it said.

'Freebies' can be lifesavers during dire times: ECI

Poll body responds to plea in SC seeking ban on political parties promising freebies during election

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

What is considered "freebies" in normal times can be lifesavers during a disaster or a pandemic, the Election Commission of India (ECI) told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The poll body was giving the top court its take on a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay to ban the practice of political parties promising "irrational freebies", especially during election time to garner votes.

The ECI said both "irrational" and "freebies" were terms open to subjective interpretation. They have no legal precise definitions. What may be irrational or a freebie for one, may be rational and essential for another section of society.

"'Freebies' can have a different impact on society, economy, equity depending on the situation... For instance, during natural disasters/pandemic, providing life-saving medicine, food, funds may be a life and economic saviour but in normal times, they could be termed 'freebies'," the ECI reasoned.

Benefits of cross-subsidisation and situation/sector-specific reliefs to address the different vulnerabilities of sections of society cannot be underestimated, the poll body said.

The ECI said a ban on freebies could be "tweaked" by political parties to serve their own ends. "Political parties can make such promises they know would be banned or adversely commented upon by the regulatory authority. This might serve to give them more publicity and mileage than actual implementation post-election," the ECI said.

The ECI, however, said it welcomed the court's proposal to set up an expert body, drawn from a wide spectrum of government and non-government bodies, to study and suggest solutions to the problem of freebies.

But the ECI said it cannot be part of the body. "It may not be appropriate for the Commission, being the constitutional authority, to offer to be part of the expert committee, especially if there are Ministers and government bodies in the expert body," the ECI affidavit said.

IN BRIEF

ATAGS to be part of 21-gun salute on I-Day

NEW DELHI

In a first, the indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) will be used along with the usual 25-Pounders for the 21-gun salute during the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort this year.

Anubrata Mondal skips CBI summons yet again

KOLKATA

For the second time in three days, Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal on Wednesday skipped summons by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a cross-border cattle smuggling case.

Assam-Meghalaya border talks after August 15

GUWAHATI:

The second phase of the discussion to resolve the boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya will begin after August 15, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

Punjab HC grants bail to Majithia in drugs case

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a case related to allowing illicit drug smuggling and harbouring offenders involved in the trade of drugs.

Nitish wanted to be V-P: Sushil Modi

BJP leader says it was the Bihar CM who proposed the name of R.C.P. Singh as Union Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday said that it was "false propaganda and white lies" that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had not proposed the name of former Janata Dal(U) leader R.C.P. Singh for a Union Cabinet berth.

Mr. Modi said Mr. Kumar wanted to become the Vice-President of India and several of his party leaders had approached the BJP for this.

"A false propaganda is being run that Nitish Kumar had not proposed the name of R.C.P. Singh for Cabinet berth at the Centre. If he had not proposed his name then, how did Mr. Singh serve as Union Minister for about a year and a half," asked Mr. Modi while addressing presspersons in Patna.

Breaking point: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with BJP leader and former Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi. ▪FILE PHOTO

Mr. Modi, in political circles, is known for his proximity with Mr. Kumar and he has always been Deputy Chief Minister in the NDA governments led by Mr. Kumar.

"When Home Minister Amit Shah had asked for one name from his party for a berth during the expansion of the Union Cabinet, Mr. Kumar proposed Mr. Singh's name adding that Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, might be upset with this and he should also be taken care of," Mr. Modi said.

After Mr. Kumar severed ties with the BJP on August 9, all State BJP leaders have started attacking Mr. Kumar as a "habitual betrayer".

The BJP leaders even sat on a dharna at the State BJP headquarters on Wednesday condemning Mr. Kumar's betrayal.

"Yes, Mr. Kumar wanted to become Vice-President of the country and for this several of his party leaders had approached the BJP," Mr. Modi said. "Some JD(U) people had come to say that 'make Nitish Kumar Vice-President' and you rule the State," Mr. Modi added.

"The BJP never betrayed anyone. We made Nitish Kumar Chief Minister of the State five times but the RJD only made him CM twice. We had a 17-year relation with Mr. Kumar but he severed ties with BJP twice," Mr. Modi said even as Mr. Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav were taking oath as the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister at the Raj Bhavan.

Speaking on allegations by the JD(U) leaders that a Maharashtra-like incident was to be repeated in Bihar as well, Mr. Modi said, "The Shiv Sena in Maharashtra was not an ally of the BJP; it was the ruling party. We did not split the Shiv Sena. You [JD(U)] were our ally and the BJP has never broken up any of its allies." Mr. Modi predicted that the new *Mahagatbandhan* government "will fall before the next election".

However, both JD(U) and RJD leaders dismissed Mr. Modi's allegations.

"Mr. Modi has been close to CM Nitish Kumar for several years and perhaps still is, and now whatever he is saying, he is saying at the directive of party's central leadership," a senior RJD leader told *The Hindu*.

Don't halt work of the House by misusing rules: Venkaiah

Outgoing V-P flags indiscriminate demand to invoke Rule 267

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a parting shot on his last day in office, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu advocated against indiscriminate demand from members to invoke rules that allows for suspension of the day's business to discuss pertinent issues in the Parliament.

Mr. Naidu expressed concern over invoking Rule 267 which allows for suspension of all other rules for taking certain issues of importance. The outgoing V-P lamented that the Opposition had pushed for employing this rule as a matter of practice every single day.

"Rule 267 should be resorted to in the rarest of the rare cases that justifies suspension of other rules of the house. It should not be taken lightly. Different members giving notices under this rule on different issues on the same day is another issue impacting the perceived priorities for the day," Mr. Naidu said.

Mr. Naidu also met the media on his last day in office. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Naidu said that he will be spending his post-retirement innings trying to resume his "unfinished journey" in the service of the nation.

M. Venkaiah Naidu

"Tomorrow onwards, I will be again on the move. As I said earlier, I don't follow that popular adage, 'President or dissident otherwise resident'. I will keep interacting with people, as I enjoy all of that more. My focus would be youth and also the farmers, because they need greater focus and attention from government and the system," Mr. Naidu said.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat also released a document analysing the functioning of the Upper House under Mr. Naidu. The document notes that during two-thirds of the tenure of Mr. Naidu, the House clocked productivity of over 82%. This is in contrast with the trend of steady decline since 1995 in House's productivity.

For the first 17 years since 1978, the annual productivity of the Rajya Sabha has been more than 100%. Since, then it has been on a downslide with the lowest annual productivity recorded at 40% in the year 2018.

As per the analysis, Mr. Naidu, too did not have an easy run. The decline in productivity was steep during the first five full sessions (244th to 248th) presided over by the outgoing V-P with the House clocking productivity of only 42.77%, the publication said. The 248th session held during January-February, 2019 recorded the lowest house productivity at 6.80%.

J&K Assembly polls unlikely this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The first Assembly election in the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is unlikely to take place this year with the Election Commission deciding to publish the final electoral roll only by the last week of November. J&K's regional parties have expressed unhappiness over the delay. The last Assembly election in the erstwhile State was held in 2014.

According to a fresh notification, the new date of publishing of the final electoral roll has been postponed from October 31 to November 25, "after due disposal of all claims and objections filed within the stipulated time period".

"The fresh order shows that the Government of India does not want elections in J&K. By denying the democratic process, a punishment is being meted out to people of J&K," Abdul Gani Vakil, senior vice-president of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, said.

BJP moves key man in U.P. to Delhi

Sunil Bansal is national general secretary in charge of Odisha, Telangana, Bengal

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

In a major organisational change, BJP president J.P. Nadda appointed Sunil Bansal, a long-time general secretary (organisation) in Uttar Pradesh, as a national general secretary in charge of Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal.

Mr. Bansal has served for long in a post key to managing the party organisation and coordination. He rose to prominence during Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stint as party general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh and the spectacular 71-seat haul that happened during the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. He has been closely working with the national team through the other three elections in that State, in 2017, 2019 (Lok Sabha election) and the recently concluded Assembly polls.

Sunil Bansal

Sources in the BJP said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Mr. Bansal did not quite have the same warm equations as the latter shared with the national team and Mr. Shah, a reason being cited by senior leaders for the organisational shift.

What is interesting is that Mr. Bansal has been given charge of States such as Odisha and Telangana where the BJP wants to grow and West Bengal, where he replaces Kailash Vijayvargiya, and where the party is desperate to rediscover its mojo.

Keshav Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister of the State, also considered close to the national leadership, was appointed leader of the BJP Legislature Party in the Legislative Council. He replaced BJP State president Swatantra Dev Singh.

Karmveer Singh, joint general secretary of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, has been moved to Jharkhand.

Cong. to protest against Agnipath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress will take to the streets after August 15 against the Agnipath recruitment scheme and unemployment, the party announced on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda said that the party extends its support to the *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan* campaign that has been jointly launched by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and the United Front of Ex-Servicemen against the new recruitment scheme as well as 'violation' of promises made during the anti-farm law agitation.

'Deceiving farmers'

"The BJP government first deceived the farmers and now they are cheating the youth. After the farmers' agitation, they were told that a panel will be formed on minimum support price, Ajay Kumar Misra Teni would be removed from the Council of Ministers and the Electricity Reform Bill will be introduced only after consultations. On all these three issues, the BJP has deceived people," he said.

Jharkhand MLAs to be in CID custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The CID of West Bengal Police on Wednesday seized more cash from Jamtara in Jharkhand in connection with ongoing investigation related to the arrest of three Jharkhand MLAs with a large amount of cash, in Howrah on July 30. Three former Congress MLAs Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kachchap and Naman Bixal Kongari were produced before a court in Howrah which remanded them to CID custody, till August 14.

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(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)

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CIN: U40109OR1995SGC003960

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

₹ in Crore

Sl No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	31.03.2022
		Un-audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from Operations	**2,834.33**	**2,362.72**	**10,161.58**
2	Net profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(160.54)	(311.69)	(496.39)
3	Net profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(160.54)	(311.69)	(440.18)
4	Net profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(160.54)	(311.69)	(440.18)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit / (loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive income (after Tax)]	**(160.54)**	**(311.69)**	**(440.18)**
6	**Paid-up Equity Share Capital** (Fully paid Equity Shares of Rs.1,000/- each issued at Par)	2,791.22	2,791.22	2,791.22
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(8,046.72)	(7,886.18)	(7,886.18)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net Worth	(5,255.50)	(5,094.96)	(5,094.96)
10	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	**7,103.62**	**6,670.59**	**6,670.59**
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	-	-	-
12	Debt-Equity Ratio	**2.54**	**2.39**	**2.39**
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.1,000/- each) (for continuing and discontinued Operations) - 1.Basic: 2.Diluted:	**(57.52)** **(57.52)**	**(529.75)** **(529.75)**	**(748.14)** **(748.14)**
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	**(0.02)**	**(0.01)**	**0.14**
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	**(0.30)**	**(0.09)**	**0.41**

#- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.

Notes:

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website: https://www.bseindia.com and on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

b) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(BSE) and can be accessed on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

c) There is no change in accounting policies and accordingly there is no impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).

By order of GRIDCO Board
For GRIDCO Ltd.
Sd/-
Managing Director

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 10.08.2022

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

Walk-in-Interview

Eligible candidates are invited for Walk-in-Interview for engagement of **Consultant (Finance & Accounts)** and **Accounts Assistant** on purely temporary and contract basis. For detailed notification regarding number of positions, schedule, eligibility conditions, etc. please visit University website **www.sanskrit.nic.in**

REGISTRAR (I/c)

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(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of 11/0.433, 63 KVA, Outdoor type, Energy Efficiency Level-1 (Star 1-Rating), Three Phase Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers With LV Bushing Cover Cum Metering & Protection Box having provision of metering on LV side Under TN-1821 **(UBN JVV2223GLOB00265)**.

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Bid Security, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)

Raj.Samwad/C/22/6214 बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED,
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, Near RIICO Watch Factory, **Ajmer**
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, Fax No. 0145-2640265, Email: acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No.( )ACE/Proj/A/AR-JJM/SE-P BHL-II/2022-23/1707-1711 Dated: 04.08.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS NIT No. 03/2022-2023

Bid for **"Work of Retrofitting of Cluster Water Supply Project Package-IV of Chambal-Bhilwara Water Supply Project Phase-II of Sahada, Raipur & Suwana Tehsils of District Bhilwara Under JJM With Operation and Maintenance for Ten(10) Years after Defect Liability Period of One (1) Year"** are invited from interested bidders upto 07.09.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be seen on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state.

" SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"

UBN No. : **PHE2223WLOB05028**
NIB No. : **PHE2223A2452**

Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
DIPR/C/10458 **PHED, Region, Ajmer**

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099

NNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:

1. **Tender No.027/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Supply of Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) Flakes at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
2. **Tender No. 028/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Supply of Trial Printing Paper-Light Blue (705mm x 820 mm)at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. **Tender No. 029/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Supply of Perlite Powder at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
4. **Tender No. 030/MYS/MMD/2022-23-** Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Training and Performance Testing Of Roller Coater Machine with Buy Back For BRBNMPL PRESS AT MYSURU (KARNATAKA).

For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

Senior General Manager

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work.

NIT No.29/EE-TVM/22-23. Name of work : Construction of Post Office Building at Kunnicode, Pathanamthitta Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 63,79,487/- (Civil: Rs. 58,37,468/-+ Elect: Rs.5,42,019/-) Earnest Money: Rs. 1,27,590/- Period of completion: 8 months

Last date and time of submission of bid: 18.08.2022 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560 038.

No.EE/CVR/E-Proc/16/2022-23 Date: 10-08-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, on behalf of the Zonal Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Proposals (Technical and financial) for appointing Consultant for Consultancy services for construction, supervision, Project Management Consultancy and Quality Control for the work in C.V. Ramannagara Assembly Constituency in East Zone detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Consultancy Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹)
1.	Consultancy services for Construction, Supervision, Project Management and Quality control for the work of Comprehensive development of Road and Drain works in Sir. C.V. Ramannagara Sub-Division, Govt. Order No: UDD 375 MNY 2018, Dated: 20-09-2019, Annexure-2, Sl. No.1042, 1044, 1047 & 1048 Annexure-6, Sl.No. 105.	67.43 (approximate)	1,35,000.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date for Receipt of Queries : **12-08-2022 up to 11:30 a.m. (2)** Date of Pre bid meeting on **12-08-2022 at 4:30 p.m. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Proposals is **17-08-2022 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **18-08-2022 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals through e-Procurement. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, C. V. Ramannagara Division, BBMP.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: etenders_ep@kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/14620/2022 Dated : 10.08.2022

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T461/2022	Various minor items for GMC Konni, Bone sets and other Schematic models, Surgical instruments for GMC Konni	18.08.2022 11.00 a.m.	29.08.2022 05.00 p.m.
2.	T462/2022	Integrated Fresh air hold with Autopsy work station, CO2 Laser system for New Born with Tracheal disorder and respiratory distress, Digital Panoramic X-Ray machine, Hematology Analyzer 5 Part Type A, Hematology Analyzer 5 Part Type B, Argon Plasma Coagulation System with Cautery model B, Ultrasonic aspirator with universal Handpiece Type B.	20.08.2022 11.00 a.m.	03.09.2022 05.00 p.m.
3.	T463/2022	Multi activity work station, Movement Therapy Machine, Muscle Stimulator Therapeutic Model, TENS, Ultrasound Unit for Physiotherapy, Computerized Interferential Therapy Unit with TENS, Wax Bath, Static Cycle, Elbow Crutches, Traction Unit, CPM Lower Limb (Knee Joint), CPM Upper Limb, Functional Electric Stimulator, Short wave Diathermy, Tilt table (Motorized), Ultrasound Therapy with Electrotherapy, ADL Training Kit, Microwave Diathermy	22.08.2022 11.00 a.m.	03.09.2022 05.00 p.m.
4.	T464/2022	Urology instruments, Nephroscope 12 Fr, Nephroscope 24Fr, Nephroscope 19.5 Fr, Ultrathin Uretero Renoscope 4.5/6.5 Fr, Cystoscopy instruments & telescope & light source and camera, Ureteroscope (6 to 7.8 Fr), Ureteroscope (7 to 9.8 FR), Flexible Ureteroscope, Disposable Video Urethroscope & Cystoscope, TURP Set, Centrifuge 16 wells , ECG Machine single channel , OT Light LED with Camera Type B, Micropipette Various Types.	23.08.2022 11.00 a.m.	03.09.2022 05.00 p.m.
5.	T465(R)/2022	Transport Incubator Model B	N.A.	25.08.2022 05.00 p.m.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

Government of Telangana Superintending Engineer, Hydrology O/o Engineer-in-Chief (General) Irrigation & CAD Department
2nd Floor, Jalasoudha Building Errummanzil, Hyderabad-500082.

NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT Grant No.: IBRD Loan 8725-IN Announces
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Bid Ref No. NHP/TSSW/D4.1.01/ NIT/01/2022-23

The Superintending Engineer, Hydrology, I & CAD Department invites applications from eligible Individual Consultants for "Hiring of SCADA Expert" for State Project Monitoring Unit, Telangana under National Hydrology Project(NHP). Detailed Terms of Reference will be available on e-procurement portal i.e., from: 11/08/2022 @3.00 PM to 24/08/2022 up to 3.00 PM. The proposals may be submitted in cppp portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) till 24/08/2022 3.00 P.M.

Sd/- Sri P. Kasi Viswanadham Dt.04.08.2022,
Superintending Engineer, Hydrology, O/o. Engineer-in-Chief (General)
Executive Engineer-1, Hydrology
R.O. No. : 507-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 O/o Engineer-in-Chief (General)

COLLAGE OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCE, BIKANER
Ph. No.: 0151-2204123(O), 2205123(Fax), E-Mail Address : cvasb03@gmail.com

क्रमांक :– बीवीसी/नेपा/2022-23/130 दिनांक :– 03/08/2022

नीलामी सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23
(NIB No. VAU2223A0067)

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान महाविद्यालय, बीकानेर के अधिनस्थ विभिन्न विभागों में अनुपयोगी सामान की नीलामी दिनांक 26.08.2022 से 29.08.2022 तक आयोजित की जायेगी। इच्छुक बोलीदाता निर्धारित बयाना राशि जमा करवाकर निलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं। निलामी की शर्तें व अन्य विस्तृत विवरण स्टेट पोर्टल की वेबसाईट http//sppp.raj.nic.in विभाग की वेबसाईट www.rajuvas.org पर उपलब्ध है। (UBN No. VAU2223GLOB00062)

राज संवाद/सी/22/6178 अधिष्ठाता

Air passengers need not give extra details

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Airlines don't have to send emails to passengers nor collect additional information in order to comply with the new regulations that require them to provide details of international air travellers to the Customs Department, the government clarified on Wednesday.

"Passengers are not required to individually submit any information to Customs, neither do they need to furnish any additional information to the airlines on account of these regulations," said the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in a press statement after some airlines started sending emails to passengers to collect information sought.

The CBIC said that all the information required is already being collected by airlines under the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. The Passenger Name Record Information Regulations, 2022, notified by the CBIC on August 8, require airlines to mandatorily provide details of passengers booked on international flights to and from India, including the passenger name record (PNR).

Corbevax gets nod as precaution dose

It will be available for adults who are fully vaccinated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday approved Biological E's Corbevax as a precaution dose against COVID-19 for those above 18 who are fully vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin. The COVID-19 vaccine, however, has been awaiting emergency use listing (EUL) by the World Health Organization.

Further strengthening India's arsenal against COVID-19, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has approved Corbevax as precaution dose for those aged above 18 vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet.

They can get the dose 26 weeks after the administration of the second dose from Friday.

The EUL is a risk-based procedure for assessing and listing unlicensed vaccines, therapeutics and in-vitro diagnostics with the ultimate aim of expediting the availability of products to people affected by a public health emergency.

Also international travel in many countries requires people to get a vaccine that is on the WHO's approved list.

Corbevax will be considered as a precaution dose

The latest approval by the Central government makes this the first time that a booster dose that is different from the one used for primary vaccination has been allowed in the country. This will be in addition to the existing guidelines for homologous precaution dose administration of Covaxin and Covishield vaccine. Also all necessary changes in regard to the administration of precaution dose of Corbevax vaccine are being made on the CoWIN portal.

The approval is based on the recommendations made recently by the COVID-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI). Corbevax is to be considered as a precaution dose after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose of either Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for those aged above 18 years enabling use of Corbevax as a heterologous COVID-19 vaccine for precaution dose administration in this age group.

Biological E announced on February 21 that the Corbevax vaccine received emergency use authorisation from India's Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for the 12-to-18 age group. And for the 12-14 age group on March 17.

In addition, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Corbevax for children aged five to 11 with certain conditions on April 21.

The DCGI approved Corbevax for restricted use in emergencies among adults on December 28, 2021. On June 4, the DCGI approved it as a heterologous COVID-19 booster dose for adults.

Modi's swipe at Cong. for Aug. 5 protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Taking a dig at the Congress's recent nationwide protest with leaders clad in black, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that "irrespective of the black magic and their belief in superstition, the public's trust will never be restored in them".

He was speaking at an event to dedicate a second generation ethanol plant in Panipat to the nation via video conferencing. Mr. Modi said there were some people trapped in the vortex of negativity and immersed in despair. Even after lying about the Centre, the public was not ready to trust them.

'Pointless issue'

In a retort, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared a picture of Mr. Modi in black clothes, and stated that the Prime Minister was dwelling on pointless issues.

"They could not do anything to bring black money, now they are making a pointless issue about black clothes. The country wants the Prime Minister to talk about their problems, but *jumlajeevi* keeps saying anything," Mr. Ramesh said in a tweet.

Amit Shah a backstage hero, says Rajnath Singh

'Home Minister does big work without any desire for credit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday described Union Home Minister Amit Shah as "*nepathya ke nayak*" (backstage hero) who has worked backstage on big events, without any desire for credit.

Mr. Singh was speaking at the release of the book *Shabdansh*, a collection of Mr. Shah's speeches edited by Shiwanand Dwivedi, who has authored a biography of the Home Minister.

Rajnath Singh at the release of a book *Shabdansh*, a collection of Amit Shah's speeches, in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

No desire for credit

"It will not be an exaggeration to say Amit Shah is a backstage hero. He has no desire for credit. He remains in background and does so many big works for the government and the party and still gets time to study so much," Mr. Singh said.

Bittersweet memories

He added that Mr. Shah's life "has been a laboratory and has had its share of bittersweet memories", noting that the Minister had had to spend several months in jail, a reference to the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case in which he was later acquitted by the court of all charges.

"Investigation agencies harassed him so much," he said, noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat, was also targeted, a reference to the Gujarat riots case in which the special investigation team (SIT) gave him the clean chit later.

"Amit Shah had faith that truth will come out which it did," he added.

NH case

"Shah went wherever probe agencies summoned him and never raised a hue and cry or launched an agitation," Mr Singh said, a reference to the Congress for its protests over the questioning of its leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate in the *National Herald* case.

'Likes challenges'

"Every challenge made him (Shah) stronger. Without being concerned about acclaim or ignominy, he walked the path of his duties. Rarely do we get an amalgamation of politics and spirituality but it is in him," Mr. Singh said.

He also pointing out to the variety of topics on which the Home Minister has spoken, which are present in the collection of speeches in the book.

Centre says buying flag is voluntary

Video of forcible sale of flag went viral

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Union Culture Ministry has asked the States to use all possible channels of delivery to make the National Flag available as part of the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign, but buying a flag was "purely voluntary", a senior Ministry official said on Wednesday, a day after a video went viral of customers at a fair price shop in Haryana being forced to purchase flags.

In the video, a fair price shop in Haryana's Karnal district is seen forcing customers to buy the flag at ₹20 apiece before being able to get their rations under the Public Distribution System (PDS), and a man says he was acting on instructions from higher-ups.

In an order on Tuesday, the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department of Haryana suspended the monthly supply to the fair price shop.

The order said the shop licensee in Dadupur village, Dinesh Kumar, had violated the instructions given to all licensees by the block authorities not to "trouble poor families" and in doing so had sullied the image of the department and the government.

Flags are available in fair price shops.

The official of the Culture Ministry, which launched the *Har Ghar Tiranga* programme to celebrate 75 years of Independence, said the Haryana government had taken action in the matter. The Ministry had not issued instructions to States regarding fair price shops and other locations, but asked them to "use various channels of delivery" to make Indian flags available to the public. The purchase of flags was "purely voluntary" and there was "no coercion", the official said.

The *Har Ghar Tiranga* programme aims to encourage 20 crore households to hoist the Tricolour from August 13 to August 15.

ECI to host regional forum meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Wednesday said it would host a virtual meeting of the Asian Regional Forum on Thursday on the theme of inclusive and accessible elections, as a precursor to the 'Global Summit for Democracy' next month.

Forum meet

"This Regional Forum meet is precursor to the 'Global Summit for Democracy' to be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico in the coming month. The Global Summit and Regional Forum meets aim to generate synergy amongst international organisations, electoral bodies from the world and promote intellectual and institutional mobilization to strengthen electoral democracy in the world," the EC said.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey would preside over the meeting and election officials from Mexico, Mauritius, Philippines, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Maldives, among others, would participate.

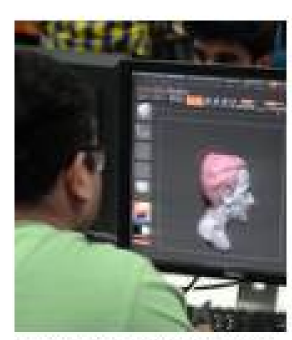
India, Australia to sign film treaty

Union Cabinet gives approval for joint production of audio-visual content

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an Audio Visual Co-production Treaty between India and Australia, which is aimed at facilitating joint production of films between the two countries.

"Audio visual co-production treaties are enabling documents which facilitate co-production of films between two countries," said the government in a statement, adding that under such umbrella agreements, private, quasi-government or governmental agencies enter into contracts to produce films together.


India has already signed 15 such treaties with other countries.

India has so far signed 15 audio visual co-production treaties with other countries.

"Australia has emerged as a preferred destination for shooting of Indian films. India is fast emerging as a major content hub for film-makers looking for new projects. India has abundance of exotic locations, talent pool and relatively cheaper cost of production, making India a favoured destination of foreign film-makers," it said.

More jobs

According to the co-production treaty, the respective contributions of the producers of the two countries may vary from 20% to 80% of the final total cost of the jointly produced work.

"The proposed agreement will boost ties with Australia, lead to exchange of art and culture, showcase the soft power of our country and lead to generation of employment among artistic, technical as well as non-technical personnel engaged in audio visual co-production, including production and post-production work," said the government.

The use of Indian locations would increase the prospects of the country becoming a preferred film-shooting destination and also lead to inflow of foreign exchange, the statement said.

Govt. extends PMAY-Urban scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an extension to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban up to December 31, 2024 so that the houses sanctioned under the scheme can be completed, officials said.

It was launched in 2015 with the aim of constructing over 112 crore homes by August 15, 2022. The Cabinet approved an extension till December 31, 2024, so that the houses already sanctioned are completed, a statement said. While the initial demand for houses was 112 crore, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has so far sanctioned 122.69 crore houses, of which 102.59 crore have been grounded and 61.77 crore have been delivered. In a reply in the Lok Sabha on July 21, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said: "A proposal seeking extension of the mission up to March 2024, to complete all houses sanctioned under the scheme up to 31 March 2022, is under consideration. Meanwhile, an interim extension of 6 months for all verticals except Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme has been granted."

ECI links 2.5 cr. Aadhaar cards to voter IDs

The commission's drive to voluntarily link the two documents started on Aug. 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has collected over 2.5 crore Aadhaar details since it started a drive on August 1 for the electorate to voluntarily link their Aadhaar with the voter ID, according to an ECI statement on Wednesday.

While appreciating the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) for the ongoing drive, Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey said over 2.5 crore Aadhaar numbers had been collected voluntarily since August 1. Mr. Pandey was addressing the CEOs at a conference organised by the EC for CEOs of States which had elections recently or where polls are expected soon. According to an EC official, the process of linking the 2.5 crore Aadhaar numbers with the voter IDs was ongoing. As of now, there are a total of 94.4 crore electors in the country.

The EC announced on July 28 that it would hold a drive from August 1 for collection of existing registered electors. "Furnishing of Aadhaar number is purely voluntary. Objective of the programme is to establish the identity of electors and authentication of entries in electoral roll," the EC had said in a statement.

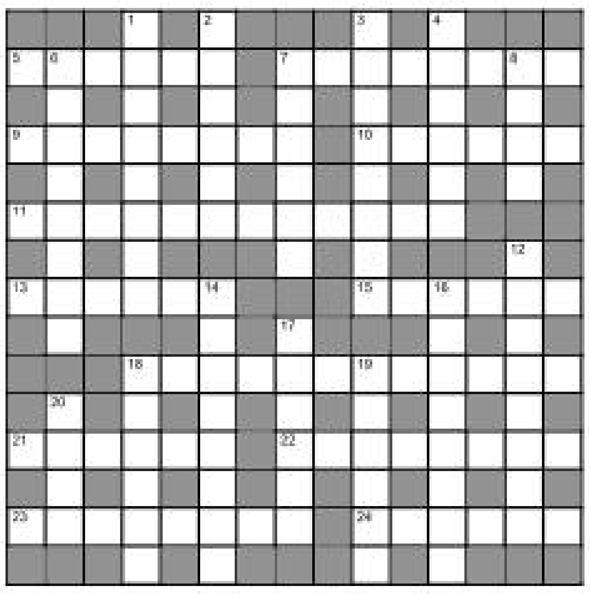
Meanwhile, at the CEOs' conference, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar spoke of the need for polling stations to be geo-tagged and the route charts to be revised by district administrations, given the changes in connectivity and technology.

TH CROSSWORD + 13632

(set by WrdPlougher)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN



Across

5 Spell 500,500 out twice (6)

7 Spelling checked by editor over chat, altered report (8)

9 Cable car carrying delegate without date (8)

10 Recycled soil absorbing rind of vine fruits (6)

11 Thinking about restaurant criticism? (12)

13 Drifting east, circling ship reaching capital (6)

15 Like a rhino-hunter, disheartened having caught nothing, returning home (6)

18 In spite of vow, changing stances (6,2,4)

21 *Tales of Mohammed* (possessed the X factor, essentially prophetic) (6)

22 Write about criminal, eager to provide colour (3-5)

23 Steady fluctuating ruble in a day (4-4)

24 Incompetent sailor captivated by two French articles (6)

Down

1 Sticky poster she ripped? That's packing cover, basically (8)

2 On the telephone, loudmouths exchange... (6)

3 ... vapid anecdotes about this — no surprise (8)

4 Breeding frustration (6)

6 See ovary doctor about egg preparation method? (4,4)

7 Made me anxious to camouflage insult (6)

8 Cared not about reputation, in short (4)

12 Bizarrely, never finally made call from the centre of an STD (8)

14 Snub lady, gutted somewhat (8)

16 Leans Roe, vies rather oddly to overturn repeal (8)

17 Basic tie (6)

18 Main rule of textbook (6)

19 A question following operation that's murky (6)

20 Market announced price that's reasonable (4)

SUDOKU

		4	3			6		1
3					7	4		
	7	6	4				8	
4		9		3				
8	6						9	4
				9		2		6
	3				6	8	1	
		1	9					2
6		7			3	9		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13631

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	7	6	3	2	4	5	9
2	3	9	5	4	1	7	6	8
4	6	5	9	8	7	2	3	1
9	2	6	3	1	4	5	8	7
8	1	4	7	5	6	9	2	3
7	5	3	8	2	9	6	1	4
6	4	2	1	9	8	3	7	5
3	7	1	4	6	5	8	9	2
5	9	8	2	7	3	1	4	6

FAITH

Role of a father-in-law

Bhishmaka, the King of Vidarbha, was the father of Rukmini. He had five sons, all of whose names had the prefix "rukma." Rukma means that which is radiant or glitters, like gold, for instance, explained V.S. KarunakaracharIar, in a discourse. Srimad Bhagavatam describes Rukmini as saintly. She was, therefore, deserving of her name. But her brothers did not deserve to be described as radiant. They made a foolish decision to get their sister married to Sisupala, a most unsuitable choice.

Srimad Bhagavatam uses the adjective "mahaan" for Bhishmaka. How could he be called a great king, when he did not stop his sons from carrying out their plans for Rukmini? He was, after all, the king, and could have stopped his sons, but he did not. And yet sage Suka calls him a mahaan. The reason for this was that no matter what his shortcomings, Bhishmaka had the good fortune of eventually becoming Krishna's father-in-law. What greater honour can there be for a man? Vishnuchitta, father of Andal, is referred to as Periyazhvar. "Periya" refers to his greatness. Periyazhvar sang verses to ward off evil eyes from the Lord, something that showed his maternal concern for the Lord. But Vedanta Desika felt that Periyazhvar's greatness stemmed from the fact that he was the father-in-law of Lord Ranganatha. A father-in-law has an important place in a man's life. No ritual can be performed by a grihastha without his wife by his side. So it is the father-in-law, who, by giving his daughter in marriage to a man, ensures that the man's duties as a householder are performed as prescribed. While an Acharya instructs a man, it is the father-in-law who makes it possible for him to carry out his duties as a householder. This gives a father-in-law a status equal to that of an Acharya.

Trump stays mum before N.Y. Attorney-General's questions

A day after search on house, ex-U.S. President probed about his business practices

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Former U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he refused to answer questions during an appearance before the New York State Attorney-General in a civil investigation into his family's business practices.

"I declined to answer the questions under the rights and privileges afforded to every citizen under the United States Constitution," Mr. Trump said in a statement.

The Constitution's Fifth Amendment offers protection against self-incrimination.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James is looking into whether the Trump Organization inflated real estate values. Mr. Trump and two of his adult children, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, fought to avoid testifying but lost.

Repeated blows: Donald Trump on his way to the New York Attorney-General's office to depose in a civil investigation. • AP

Evidence uncovered

Ms. James has said her investigation uncovered significant evidence that the Trump Organization, which manages hotels, golf courses and other real estate, overstated asset values to obtain favorable loans and understated the values to get tax breaks.

Mr. Trump, a Republican, has denied wrongdoing and called the New York investigation politically motivated. Ms. James is a Democrat.

Mr. Trump in his statement said: "I once asked, "If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?" Now I know the answer to that question."

Connecting the dots

He added, "If there was any question in my mind, the raid of my home, Mar-a-Lago, on Monday by the FBI, just two days prior to this deposition, wiped out any uncertainty. I have absolutely no choice because the current administration and many prosecutors in this Country have lost all moral and ethical bounds of decency."

The FBI searched Mr. Trump's Florida estate on Monday, an escalation of the federal investigation into whether he illegally removed records from the White House as he was leaving office in January 2021.

U.K. summons China envoy over Taiwan

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

Days after Beijing concluded military exercises around Taiwan , U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss asked her office to summon China's Ambassador to the U.K., Zheng Zeguang. This occurred as Beijing announced the conclusion of military exercises around Taiwan in response to Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei last week.

"I instructed officials to summon the Chinese Ambassador to explain his country's actions," said Ms Truss , who is a contender in the two-person contest for the leadership of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister's role.

"We have seen increasingly aggressive behaviour and rhetoric from Beijing in recent months, which threaten peace and stability in the region. The United Kingdom urges China to resolve any differences by peaceful means, without the threat or use of force or coercion," she said in a statement on Wednesday.

Response to escalation

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said Mr. Zheng was summoned over Beijing's "aggressive and wide-ranging escalation" against Taiwan over Ms. Pelosi's visit.

The People's Liberation Army Eastern Theatre Command , on Wednesday, said that it would keep combat-ready patrols in the Taiwan Strait. Beijing also released a white paper on Wednesday saying it would work for peaceful reunification with Taiwan but would not renounce the use of force as a last resort.

Taiwan drills conclude, China reaffirms reunification pledge

'Military exercises near Taipei would bring in a new normal'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's military on Wednesday said, after close to one week of military exercises surrounding Taiwan, that it had "successfully completed" its drills, even as Beijing once again pledged that it would seek "reunification".

The PLA Eastern Theatre Command, which on August 4 began unprecedented live-fire drills around Taiwan a day after the visit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said it had "completed" various tasks that had "effectively tested the military's integrated joint combat capability." It added that it would continue to carry out training and "regularly organise combat readiness" patrols across the Taiwan Strait.

China has sought to convey that the exercises, which included aircraft and warships crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait and the firing of conventional missiles over Taiwan, would bring in a new normal in military activity.

On Wednesday, Beijing released its only third ever "white paper" on its Taiwan policy, which reaffirmed its quest for "reunification" and appeared to withdraw some of the autonomy guarantees made in earlier white papers in 1993 and 2000.

Last resort

The paper from the Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office, titled "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era", said China "will work with the greatest sincerity and exert our utmost efforts to achieve peaceful reunification." "But we will not renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all necessary measures," it added, repeating the earlier white paper's declaration that "use of force would be the last resort taken under compelling circumstances."

Impending doom: China said that the use of force would be the last resort taken under compelling circumstances • AP

The "new era" refers to the rule of Xi Jinping, who declared the start of a third era, following the Mao and Deng periods, starting with his coming to power in 2012.

Mr. Xi, 69, will begin an unprecedented third five-year term this year, and most analysts in Beijing expect him to remain in power for at least another decade.

The white paper called "reunification" a "historic mission" of the Communist Party, saying "never before have we been so close to, confident in, and capable of achieving the goal of national rejuvenation."

"The same is true when it comes to our goal of complete national reunification," it added, drawing a connect between Mr. Xi's stated goal of "rejuvenation" with "reunification".

The white paper said the "one country, two systems" formula adopted in Hong Kong would similarly be applied in Taiwan.

However, recent surveys in Taiwan have shown fewer and fewer people support the idea of unification or of "one country, two systems", with those numbers falling to a record low in the wake of changes in Hong Kong following the imposition of a national security law.

Dwindling interest

A July 2021 survey by National Chengchi University showed self-identification as "Taiwanese and Chinese," or solely as "Chinese" dropped to record lows and 63.3% identified as Taiwanese.

Most respondents (28.2%) of the survey supported the status quo across the Strait, with 27.5% wanting the status quo made permanent. Only 1.5% supported unification, while 5% "leaned toward unification".

While the paper broadly reaffirmed the official policy on Taiwan, it had "withdrawn a promise not to send troops or administrators to Taiwan after taking it back", *Reuters* reported, noting that "two previous white papers on Taiwan, in 1993 and 2000" said China "will not send troops or administrative personnel to be based in Taiwan" after achieving unification." That reference had been removed.

Thailand is the next stop for Gotabaya

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has requested entry into Thailand for a temporary stay in a second Southeast Asian country after fleeing his island nation last month amid mass protests, the Thai Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

Iran plotted to kill Bolton, says U.S.

'It was in retaliation to the killing of Qassem Soleimani'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it had uncovered an Iranian plot to kill former White House National Security Advisor John Bolton, and announced charges against a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The Justice Department said 45-year-old Shahram Poursafi, also known as Mehdi Rezayi, had offered to pay an individual in the United States $300,000 to kill Mr. Bolton, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

The Justice Department said that plan was likely set in retaliation for the U.S. killing of top Guard commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq in January 2020.

The allegation came as Iran weighs a proposed agreement in Vienna talks to revive the 2015 agreement that aims to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

"This is not the first time we have uncovered Iranian plots to exact revenge against individuals on U.S. soil," U.S. Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said.

Sri Lanka protesters to vacate site

Pocket protests by citizens' groups, trade unions were held across the island

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Anti-government protesters in Sri Lanka, who camped out near the Presidential Secretariat for four months in the wake of the island's economic crisis, on Wednesday announced their decision to vacate the agitation site, while stating their struggle will persist.

The move comes weeks after armed soldiers assaulted protesters in the area and demolished a row of tents in a pre-dawn military raid that sparked wide condemnation. Later, the police ordered that the remaining tents of resident demonstrators be dismantled before August 5, but some protesters challenged the move in court. Subsequently, they withdrew their petitions and decided to leave the sea-facing agitation site where a citizens' mobilisation on July 9 ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who they chiefly blamed for the country's economic collapse.

A demonstrator preparing to leave the protest camp in Colombo on Wednesday.

While the now-iconic tent city of resistance is being removed in capital Colombo, pocket protests by citizens' groups and trade unions were held across the island on Tuesday, pointing to lingering citizens' anger. Some citizens express relief as fuel supplies improved recently but many others, especially the poor, are struggling to cope with the spiralling living costs that remain an everyday reminder of the country's enduring crisis. The most recent shock for citizens came from the Ceylon Electricity Board that announced a 264% hike in electricity tariff for people consuming the least, while bigger consumers have been spared a steep rise.

Meanwhile, President Ranil Wickremesinghe's government faces growing allegations of repression. Hashtag Generation, a movement led by youth, on Wednesday said at least 51 protesters were arrested since Mr. Wickremesinghe assumed charge as President on July 21. A total of 18 demonstrators have been barred from leaving the country, while three abductions were reported, it said.

London children under nine to get polio vaccine

Poliovirus was found in a sewage plant

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

British health authorities have advised that one-nine-year-olds throughout London receive a polio vaccine booster, after detection of the poliovirus in sewage from eight London boroughs, the U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said on Wednesday. The overall risk, nationally, of paralytic polio was low, the UKHSA added, because most people are protected by vaccination.

After type 2 poliovirus (PV2) was found in the Beckton (London) sewage treatment plant in February, further sampling was done upstream between February and July , and found at least one sewage sample with the virus in each of eight London boroughs. There was " high genetic diversity" among the PV2 isolates, as per UKHSA, indicating that the transmission may have gone beyond a close group of persons.

The U.K. was declared polio-free in 2003, with the last known case of polio in the country in 1984. Polio has been eradicated from most countries in the world, with India achieving that milestone in 2014, as per the World Health Organisation (WHO). The disease is still considered endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Of the 116 PV2 isolates that were identified in London, most were vaccine-like viruses, i.e., from individuals who have been vaccinated with an oral polio vaccine that contains a weakened polio virus, which is used in some countries. The U.K. stopped using the oral vaccine and moved to the inactivated polio vaccine in 2004.

Just a few of the isolates examined had sufficient mutations to be classified as 'vaccine derived poliovirus'. It is these few that are of "greater concern", UKHSA said, because they behave more like the wild type (i.e., the naturally occurring virus), and could, as a rare occurrence, cause paralysis in non-vaccinated individuals.

"No cases of polio have been reported and for the majority of the population, who are fully vaccinated, the risk is low," UKHSA Consultant Epidemiologist Vanessa Saliba said. "But we know the areas in London where the poliovirus is being transmitted have some of the lowest vaccination rates. This is why the virus is spreading in these communities," she added.

KARNATAKA GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
Raj Bhavan, Bengaluru-560001

No. GS 11 KOM 2022 Date: 10.08.2022

WITHDRAWAL OF NEWS PAPER PUBLICATION DATED 04.03.2022 INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR OF KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, MYSURU

Whereas this office vide its newspaper publication dated: 04.03.2022 bearing No. GS 11 KOM 2022 had invited the applications from the eligible candidates for the Post of Vice Chancellor of Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru. It is hereby notified that the aforesaid newspaper publication dated 04.03.2022 bearing No. GS 11 KOM 2022 has been withdrawn with immediate effect.

Sd/- (R. Prabhushankar)
Special Secretary to Governor

DIPR/CP/Advt/1748/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(SHARAVATHY HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12607/CALL-2 Dated : 04.08.2022

ABSTRACT "e" TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids in two documents sytem are invited through e-Procurement Portal **(Website URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** for the **work of "Supply and Retrofitting of Four Nos. of Thrust/UGB Oil Coolers for Second Stage Units of SGS"** from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar works as specified in pre-qualifying requirements. Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **17.08.2022 up to 17.30 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid: **19.08.2022 at 10.00 Hrs.** EMD: **Rs. 62,000/-** and Tender Processing Fee as applicable shall be paid onling through e-Procurement Portal only. Further information, can be obtained from office of the **Executive Engineer (Generator) Jog, Sharavathy, KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Sagar Tq., Shivamogga Dist, Mobile No: 9449598804.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- Different Head : 2022-23/2194 Date : 10-08-2022

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 3 work of total amount of Rs - **835.00** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs. **75.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **490.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 3 and 4 through e-procurement. - http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/

(a) Last Date for Clarification upto : **17-08-2022**, (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **19-08-2022** (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date: **20-08-2022** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date: **22-08-2022** Work Indent No:- **152529** call-2, **152552** Call-3 & **152547.**

The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag (08372-238782) during office hours.

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.
DIPR/Gadag/MCA/239/2022-23

COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Tender Notice No. e-5 Jnnurm / 2022 - 23 Date : 08.08.2022

The Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation invites **"Expression of Interest"** from the eligible organization with previous experience to express their interest for the below mentioned work.

Sl.No.	Name of work
1	Inviting Proposals for partnering with Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation For Operations and Management of Twenty Two Numbers of (22 Nos) Micro Composting Centres.

A two cover bidding procedure will be adopted. The bidders shall satisfy the qualification criteria and the financial criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. The Pre bid meeting will be held on **17.08.2022.** The bidding documents will be available from **10.08.2022 to 29.08.2022** and downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before at **15.00 Hours on 29.08.2022.** Tender Submission will be closed at 15.00 hours and opened at **16.00 hours on 30.08.2022.**

Roc. No. 6997/2018/JN5 Email : cscl.jnnurm@gmail.com
Commissioner,
Coimbatore Corporation
DIPR/ 3718 /TENDER/2022

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-procurement mode only)

No.: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)EE(O)/AEE-1/F- (22-23/4753-55 Date: 10.08.2022

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No. **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2021-22/EPR-10/CALL-8, Dtd: 11.10.2021** in **Combined Package** for the following works:

1. Replacement of damaged, deteriorated conductor of 220KV Somanahalli-Yarandanahalli and 220KV Somanahalli - Subramanyapura line at Kulumepalya in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru.
2. Providing Intermediate Tower to increase the vertical clearance of the existing 220kV Hoody-BIAL S/C line between Tower No. 44 and 45 near Yarappanahally village Kadagrahara limits, TLM Hoody on Total Turnkey Basis.
3. Estimate for providing Double string Insulator in 220kV Tatguni - Vrushabavathi line passing Pipeline & Nice road near Ayurvedic Hospital which is identified as hazardous location, in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru.
4. Estimate for providing Double string Insulator in 220kV Khodays-Subramanyapura & 220kV Subramanyapura-Peenya lines(DC) are passing Pipeline at Gubbalala which is identified as hazardous location, in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru.
5. Increasing the vertical clearance of existing 220kV Somanahalli-HSR and Somanahalli-Naganthapura line at Basavanapura, near Abhaya Laksmi Narasimha temple by erecting new 220kV DB+6 NRS-Laggere design type tower by replacing the existing 220kV DC A type tower in the jurisdiction of TLM Somanahalli.
6. Increasing the vertical clearance of existing 220kV Somanahalli-HSR and Somanahalli-Naganthapura line at Begur to koppa road near Mylasandra dinne, by erecting new 'DA+9' 220 DC 'A' Tower Gadag-Bagalakote design type tower by replacing existing ' DA+0' type tower, in the jurisdiction of TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-Procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.08.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle,
KPTCL, Ground Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Benglauru - 560 009.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, West Zone, Joint Commissioner (West) Office Premises, 2nd Floor, Sampige Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560020.

No: EE/P-W/TEND/04/2022-23 Date: 10-08-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project Division, West Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction works detailed below.

(Standard Bid Document - KW-3)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Ambedkar Bhavan RKS Nagar, Dayananda Nagar in Ward No. 97, Annexure-6, Sl.No. 225 **(Balance Work)**	100.00	200000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 12-08-2022.** 2) Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting: **16-08-2022 at 3.00 PM.** 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Queries (through e-Portal only): **22-08-2022 upto 3.00 PM.** 4) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **26-08-2022 upto 4.00 PM.** 5) Opening of Technical Bids: **29-08-2022 at 4.30 PM.** 6) Opening of Financial Bid: **01-09-2022 (if Possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, West Zone, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC. BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2022-23/3020 Date: 10.08.2022

: ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in E-procurement portal in Public Works Department under KW- 1,2,3 & 4 Standard tender documents for a total of 40 works under 8443-Deposit Contribution, 5054-TSP,5054-SCP, 5054-SH Impts,5054-SH Renewals, 5054-MDR Impts, 5054-MDR Bridge,2059 & 3054-SH Bridge Maintenance(Flood), with maximum & minimum tender amounts of Rs. 880.00 Lakhs & Rs. 11.24 Lakhs respectively and. maximum & minimum EMD amounts of Rs. 13,20,000/- & Rs 15,900/- respectively. Part-1: Tender receipt Date is on 19-08-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 20-08-2022 after 4.45 PM, Part-2: Tender receipt Date is on 25-08-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 26-08-2022 after 4.45 PM, Part-3: Tender receipt Date is on 19-08-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 20-08-2022, Part-4: Tender receipt Date is on 25-08-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 26-08-2022 and Part-5: Tender receipt Date is on 06-09-2022 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 07-09-2022 after 4.45 PM For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.eproc.karnataka gov.in after 10-08-2022.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Dn Belagavi
DIPR/BGM/NO-NID-683/MCA/2022-23

MARKET WATCH

	10-08-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,817	-0.06
US Dollar	79.25	0.47
Gold	52,811	0.61
Brent oil	96.34	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	790.55	-11.10
Apollo Hosp	4517.15	89.80
Asian Paints	3411.65	-46.80
Axis Bank	739.00	-6.55
Bajaj Auto	4034.85	12.20
Bajaj Finserv	15643.20	112.55
Bajaj Finance	7149.40	-192.80
Bharti Airtel	715.25	10.90
BPCL	328.30	2.65
Britannia Ind	3647.75	16.35
Cipla	1038.35	8.80
Coal India	219.85	4.45
Divis Lab	3948.80	11.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4243.30	19.95
Eicher Motors	3154.55	37.80
Grasim Ind	1610.90	12.25
HCL Tech	952.05	-14.00
HDFC	2398.30	4.60
HDFC Bank	1466.30	4.25
HDFC Life	540.90	4.15
Hero MotoCorp	2775.45	37.40
Hindalco	440.10	18.70
Hind Unilever	2642.80	-7.55
ICICI Bank	848.75	11.80
Indusind Bank	1063.10	12.90
Infosys	1602.45	-16.95
ITC	311.20	-1.95
JSW Steel	670.10	0.90
Kotak Bank	1828.35	-16.15
L&T	1855.15	25.50
M&M	1268.05	-8.65
Maruti Suzuki	8879.70	-42.25
Nestle India Ltd.	19769.50	116.55
NTPC	155.75	-1.65
ONGC	133.80	-2.70
PowerGrid Corp	223.50	1.60
Reliance Ind	2582.50	15.35
SBI Life	1273.20	3.30
State Bank	514.70	-5.70
Shree Cement	21104.90	-90.70
Sun Pharma	919.70	9.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	790.55	1.85
Tata Motors	475.55	7.30
Tata Steel	109.20	2.00
TCS	3354.25	-20.20
Tech Mahindra	1055.20	-1.40
Titan	2433.60	-13.35
UltraTech Cement	6595.65	-82.20
UPL	765.30	16.15
Wipro	430.15	-5.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.32	79.64
Euro	81.19	81.52
British Pound	95.95	96.34
Japanese Yen (100)	58.75	58.98
Chinese Yuan	11.74	11.79
Swiss Franc	83.57	83.92
Singapore Dollar	57.59	57.83
Canadian Dollar	61.58	61.83
Malaysian Ringitt	17.80	17.87
Australian Dollar	55.26	55.49

Source: Indian Bank

M&M unveils new LCV

MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has introduced the Bolero MaXX Pik-Up LCV catering to the transport and logistics segment, at prices starting at ₹7.68 lakh (ex-showroom).

RBI targets unfair methods in digital lending with new norms

Lending business to be carried out only by regulated entities, says central bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued the first set of guidelines for digital lending, to crack down on illegal activities by certain players. This follows the recommendation of a Working Group on Digital Lending that had submitted its report recently.

As per the new norms, all loan disbursals and repayments will be required to be executed only between the bank accounts of the borrower and the Regulated Entities (RE) - such as a bank or a non-banking financial company - without any pass-through or pool account of the Lending Service Providers or any third party.

Larger good: A cooling-off period allows borrowers to repay principal and APR without penalty. •G.R.N. SOMASHEKAR

Stating that digital lending channels had become prominent recently, the RBI said concerns had also emerged which, "if not mitigated, may erode the confidence of members of the public in the digital lending ecosystem."

The concerns relate to 'unbridled engagement of third parties, mis-selling, breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates, and unethical recovery practices', it said.

"A standardised Key Fact Statement must be provided to the borrower before executing the loan contract," the RBI said in a circular. The norms prohibit any automatic increase in credit limit without borrowers' consent.

They also allow a cooling-off period in which borrowers can exit loans by paying the principal and the proportionate annual percentage rate (APR) sans penalty.

The framework is based on the principle that the lending business can be carried out only by entities regulated either by the Reserve Bank or entities permitted to do so under any other law, RBI added.

U.S. inflation slows from 40-year peak

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Falling gas prices gave Americans a slight break from the pain of high inflation last month, though overall price increases slowed only modestly from the four-decade high that was reached in June.

Consumer prices jumped 8.5% in July compared with a year earlier, the government said, down from a 9.1% year-over-year jump in June. On a monthly basis, prices were unchanged from June to July, the smallest such rise in more than two years.

The report raised hopes that a modest slowdown in inflation might enable the Federal Reserve to raise short-term interest rates by less than anticipated when it meets in late September.

Price freeze to impact OMCs' profits, says Fitch

'Pricing freedom may aid BPCL sale'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies' (OMCs) losses on account of frozen retail fuel prices and the prospect of prolonged 'state interference' in pricing decisions pose a negative risk for their credit profiles, Fitch Ratings wrote in a note on Wednesday.

Price-freeze for gasoline, gasoil and LPG during recent periods of elevated crude-oil prices have caused marketing losses for Indian OMCs that outweigh strong gross refining margins, that are at a record high, Fitch said. These losses would pressure their profitability and credit metrics.

Freedom in retail fuel pricing would also help reboot the Centre's plans to disinvest BPCL, whose sale process has been dropped after bidders lost interest, Fitch noted. "The OMCs have borne the largest share of the burden of surging crude oil prices in 2022, despite government tax cuts, with only limited price rises being passed on to end consumers," it said.

"A scenario of prolonged State interference in auto-fuel retail prices and losses at the OMCs would be negative for standalone credit profiles," the agency added.

Chola Financial Q1 profit climbs 63% to ₹582 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Ltd. has posted a 63% growth in consolidated net profit for the first quarter to ₹582 crore.

Total income rose by 10% to ₹3,963 crore, the company said in a filing.

Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd., an arm, registered a gross written premium of ₹1,384 crore (₹997 crore) and net profit of ₹20 crore (₹29 crore). The profit reduced on account of a rise in fair value loss in debt and equity instruments of ₹9.4 crore compared with a year earlier, and reversal of premium deficiency reserve loss of ₹9 crore in the previous year.

JSW Neo to buy 1,753 MW of green power capacity

Mytrah portfolio valued at ₹10,530 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

JSW Energy on Wednesday said its arm JSW Neo Energy will acquire 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity from Mytrah Energy for ₹10,530 crore.

JSW Neo Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW Energy, has agreed to acquire a portfolio of 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity – comprising 17 SPVs and one ancillary SPV – from Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited, as per a statement.

Agreements signed

Necessary definitive agreements have been signed between the parties, it added The transaction is subject to the approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and other customary approvals.

This is the largest acquisition made by JSW Energy since inception

The transaction pegs the Mytrah Energy portfolio at an enterprise valuation of approximately ₹10,530 crore after adjusting for net current assets, as per the statement.

This is the largest acquisition made by JSW Energy since its inception, and would leapfrog the current operational generation capacity by more than 35% – from 4,784 MW to 6,537 MW, as per the statement.

Hindalco Q1 net rises 48% to ₹4,119 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries Ltd. reported first quarter consolidated net profit grew 48% to ₹4,119 crore.

EBITDA grew 27% to ₹8,640 crore. Revenue rose 40% to ₹58,018 crore.

The results were driven by better macroeconomic indicators, robust performance of aluminium downstream and copper businesses, along with better operating efficiencies, Hindalco said.

"Our performance was backed by strong operational efficiencies and preemptive sourcing of critical raw materials, thus ensuring stable operations and higher margins," Managing Director Satish Pai said.

Indian traders charter flight to Yiwu in China

City is key hub for sourcing imports

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

The first post-pandemic business charter flight from India to China carrying 107 Indian businesspeople landed in Hangzhou in China's Zhejiang province on Tuesday.

With direct flights between India and China yet to resume more than two years into the pandemic, businesspeople with ties to the commodity hub of Yiwu in Zhejiang, a key destination for sourcing imports, arranged an Airbus A320 charter flight through China Southern Airlines that left New Delhi on Tuesday.

China's State media reported the flight, which landed in Hangzhou on Tuesday evening, was the first commercial charter bringing Indian businesspeople back to China. Travel through third countries to China, travellers said, incurs high costs as well as poses logistical difficulties on account of China's COVID-19 restrictions that require PCR tests even while in transit.

Chinese media reported the flight was organised with the assistance of the Zhejiang provincial commerce department and Yiwu city, noting that India was the second-biggest export destination for the Chinese commodity hub with $3 billion in annual exports and more than 2,000 Indians resident there before the pandemic.

Coal India Q1 net jumps almost 3-fold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) on Wednesday reported an almost threefold rise in consolidated net profit to ₹8,832.86 crore for quarter ended June on the back of higher sales.

CIL had posted net profit of ₹3,169.86 crore in the year-earlier period, it said in a filing with the BSE.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹35,092.17 crore from ₹25,282.75 crore. Net sales in the first quarter rose to ₹32,497.9 crore from ₹23,293.65 crore earlier. CIL's output increased to 159.75 million tonne (mt) from 123.98 mt.

Coal India accounts for more than 80% of domestic coal output.

SPORT

Sable's silver the most precious

With four medals, including gold, jumpers bring best haul

CWG ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Call it the Neeraj Chopra effect or whatever but there seems to be one happy high after another in Indian athletics.

Javelin thrower Neeraj's Olympic gold has changed the sport, broken mental barriers and continues to inspire young athletes to think big. And after the country's best-ever performance at the recent Worlds, where Neeraj won the first-ever silver and six Indians qualified for the final, expectations were high as the athletes flew to Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games.

They lived up to expectations, or perhaps even exceeded them, finishing with a best-ever medal haul – eight: one gold, four silver, three bronze – outside the country (the home CWG, New Delhi 2010, had a bigger haul).

India's previous best outside home was just three but this time, despite Neeraj pulling out with an injury, the medal bag was bigger.

'Immaculate planning'

How did the country manage such a sterling show?

"Immaculate planning," said Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwall in a chat with *The Hindu*. "And this was expected. We expected 1-2-3 in triple jump which we missed narrowly (Praveen Chithravel, fourth) by 4cm."

There were many Indian CWG firsts too, like Sreeshankar's men's long jump silver, Eldhose Paul's triple jump gold and his happy one-two with Abdulla Aboobacker. High jumper Tejaswin Shankar and woman javelin thrower Annu Rani, both with bronze, were among the others who opened the CWG medal account in their respective events.

Doing the impossible: Sable's race was very special as he broke the Kenyan wall in steeplechase. •GETTY IMAGES

But Avinash's Sable silver show in the 3,000m steeplechase was perhaps the most precious, one worth its weight in gold as he shocked two-time World champion and 2016 Rio Olympic gold medallist Conseslus Kipruto.

"Sable's race was the most dramatic and very special because we thought breaking the Kenyan wall in the steeplechase was almost impossible... but he made it," said Anju Bobby George.

The Kenyan steeplechasers had not lost a single medal in the CWG since 1998 but in Birmingham, Sable changed that, even giving a huge scare to Abraham Kibiwot, the 2018 CWG silver medallist who took the gold, at the finish. With Tejaswin taking bronze, the jumpers turned out to be the biggest medal winners at the CWG, four in all including a gold and two silver.

The 10,000m race walks also brought a women's silver (Priyanka, personal best) and men's bronze (Sandeep Kumar).

The men's 4x400m relay team of Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Amoj Jacob finished sixth (3:05.51s) while the women's 4x100m quartet of Dutee Chand, Hima Das, Srabani Nanda and Jyothi Yarraji was fifth (43.81s).

Naveen credits Kuldeep

Wrestler says next target is Worlds

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Newly crowned Commonwealth Games men's freestyle 74kg champion Naveen Malik's achievement may enable his guru Kuldeep Singh to get rid of the 'Greco Roman coach' tag.

Kuldeep showed appreciation for his 19-year-old student's accomplishment when he donned his uniform to welcome the fellow Navyman on his return from Birmingham at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.

"As he was the chief coach of the Indian Greco Roman team, the tag remained with him. But coach *sahab* is good at teaching both freestyle and Greco Roman wrestlers. Whatever I have won is because of the good training imparted by him," Naveen told *The Hindu*.

"My father travelled 40km from our village (Pugthala) to the Raipur academy in Sonipat every morning to provide milk to me and my elder brother. It's because of my family's sacrifices and my coach's training that I have achieved this."

Naveen is delighted to get the 74kg gold medal won by Sushil Kumar in 2018. "Sushil Kumar inspired every Indian wrestler when he claimed the 2008 Olympics bronze medal. It feels good that I am in his weight and got the gold he won four years ago," said Naveen.

An Asian championships bronze medallist in 70kg, Naveen surprised all when he won the Commonwealth Games selection trials for 74kg. The field had the best wrestlers – including Worlds bronze medallist Narsingh Yadav, Asian medallists Amit Dhankar, Gourav Baliyan and Jitender Kumar and World cadet champion Sagar Jaglan – from 74kg and 79kg.

"I had no doubts. I was not bothered about my opponents," said Naveen.

He was equally confident in Birmingham. "My toughest bout was against Nigerian Ogbonna John. But everyone looked forward to the final against Pakistan's Muhammad Tahir because of the India-Pakistan rivalry. I was determined to beat him," said Naveen, who impressed everyone with his spectacular throws.

"Naveen has got fine movements and is disciplined. He is good in both attack and defence," said Kuldeep. Even after his Commonwealth Games success, Naveen is not thinking about a break.

"My next target is the World championships next month. I have to prepare for the trials," said Naveen.

Guiding force: Naveen with Kuldeep. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LIVE TELECAST

KSCA Maharaja T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Ireland vs Afghanistan: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Tyson Fury set for a comeback

LONDON

Tyson Fury has announced a return to boxing and has his sights set on a third bout against fellow Briton Derek Chisora. "I've decided to come back to boxing because I can be the first heavyweight champion in history to have two trilogies, one with Deontay Wilder, a second one with Derek Chisora," Fury said. AP

Bhavani Devi wins gold

Bhavani. •TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

SPORTS BUREAU

C.A. Bhavani Devi of India won the individual women's sabre gold in the Commonwealth fencing championship in London, defeating Vasilova Veronica of Australia 15-10 in the final on Tuesday.

Bhavani said: "It's my second gold from the Commonwealth Championship. Last time I won gold in 2018 (Canberra). Commonwealth Championships take place every four years, the same time as the Commonwealth Games, but unfortunately fencing is not included in the Games," Bhavani said in a statement on Wednesday.

It's Polished Girl vs Shabelle

BENGALURU: Polished Girl and Shabelle may fight out the finish of the Bangalore Summer Million (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Aug 11).
False rails will be declared on the race day.

1 MUGHAL GARDEN STAKES (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1.30 p.m.: 1. Air Display (6) Salman K 61, 2. Tiger Returns (4) Nazerul 59.5, 3. Belli Deepa (12) R. Pradeep 59, 4. Red Lucifer (2) L.A. Rozario 59, 5. Southern Chrome (1) Darshan 59, 6. Osibisa (7) Vaibhav 58.5, 7. Chandra Kanta (3) B. Nayak 58, 8. Knotty Princess (11) G. Vivek 58, 9. Gallic (9) B. Harish 57, 10. Blazing Engine (10) Akshay K 55.5, 11. Ultimate Choice (5) Shreyas S 55.5 and 12. Zehnaseeb (8) Hindu S 55.5.
1. ZEHNASEEB, 2. TIGER RETURNS, 3. BLAZING ENGINE

2 WINSLOW STAKES (Div. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00: 1. Golden Ring (7) Saddam H 56, 2. Mandela (2) Hindu S 56, 3. Masteroftheskies (10) Sai Kumar 56, 4. Quick Witted (5) G. Vivek 56, 5. Southern Force (9) Rayan 56, 6. The Pirate (8) R. Pradeep 56, 7. Emma (12) Likith 54.5, 8. Fair Counsel (6) Darshan 54.5, 9. Firefinch (4) Salman K 54.5, 10. My Solitaire (3) Akshay K 54.5, 11. Stars Above (11) Vinod Shinde 54.5 and 12. The Strikingly (1) Arvind K 54.5.
1. MY SOLITAIRE, 2. MANDELA, 3. STARS ABOVE

3 MUSSOORIE STAKES (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Divine Ray (8) Akshay K 61.5, 2. Imperial Blue (3) L.A. Rozario 59, 3. Capable (5) G. Vivek 58.5, 4. Southern Dynasty (4) Darshan 56, 5. Pink Jasmine (6) Trevor 54.5, 6. Starry Wind (2) Shreyas S 53.5, 7. Silverita (1) Hindu S 52.5 and 8. Towering Presence (7) S. Saqlain 50.5.
1. PINK JASMINE, 2. DIVINE RAY, 3. CAPABLE

4 WINSLOW STAKES (Div. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Agera (6) R. Pradeep 56, 2. Empire Of Dreams (3) Akshay K 56, 3. Ice Storm (11) M. Prabhakaran 56, 4. Listen To Me (8) Trevor 56, 5. Master Of Courage (10) Sai Kumar 56, 6. Maybach (5) Tousif 56, 7. Royal Grant (12) B. Harish 56, 8. Sagacious (1) Darshan 56, 9. Star Admiral (4) Srinath 56, 10. Double Vision (2) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 11. Loch Lomond (9) Hindu S 54.5 and 12. Tripitaka (7) T.S. Jodha 54.5.
1. EMPIRE OF DREAMS, 2. LISTEN TO ME, 3. TRIPITAKA

5 KIMBERLEY STAKES (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 3-30: 1. De Villiers (5) Trevor 60, 2. Lucky Chance (6) J.H. Arul 59.5, 3. Tactical Command (4) S. John 59.5, 4. Hukum (1) Md. Aliyar 58, 5. Griffin (3) L.A. Rozario 55 and 6. Thousand Words (2) Akshay K 55.
1. DE VILLIERS, 2. TACTICAL COMMAND

6 BANGALORE SUMMER MILLION (1,600m), 3-y-o, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Ravishing Form (1) Trevor 57, 2. Polished Girl (2) Suraj 55.5, 3. Ardakan (7) Vinod Shinde 54, 4. Fortunatus (3) P.P. Dhebe 54, 5. Mirra (4) Akshay K 52.5, 6. Shabelle (8) Sandesh 52.5, 7. Triple Wish (6) Hindu S 52.5 and 8. Victoria Punch (5) T.S. Jodha 52.5.
1. POLISHED GIRL, 2. SHABELLE, 3. MIRRA

7 KANVA STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Aztec Queen (1) Akshay K 60.5, 2. General Patton (11) Trevor 58, 3. Kvasir (6) L.A. Rozario 55.5, 4. Golden Vision (9) Saddam H 55, 5. The Inheritor (4) Suraj 55, 6. Powerful lady (8) S. Saqlain 54.5, 7. Alberetta (2) Salman K 54, 8. Del Mar (5) R. Pradeep 54, 9. Donna Bella (10) Hindu S 54, 10. Perfect Rendition (3) Hasib A 53.5 and 11. Wings Of Desire (7) G. Vivek 53.5.
1. THE INHERITOR, 2. AZTEC QUEEN, 3. GENERAL PATTON

8 HIMALAYA STAKES (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Debonair (11) Saddam H 60, 2. Domina (9) S. John 59, 3. Gold Gray (2) Vaibhav 58.5, 4. Inexhaustible (3) Nazerul 57, 5. Silver Swift (12) G. Vivek 57, 6. Lady Supremos (7) Rayan 56, 7. Singhsaab (10) Indrajeet S 56, 8. Twilight Fame (5) B. Harish 56, 9. Altair (8) Arvind K 55.5, 10. Limited Edition (4) Salman K 55.5, 11. Ooh La La (1) P. Surya 54.5 and 12. Cinco De Mayo (6) B. Nayak 52.
1. INEXHAUSTIBLE, 2. DOMINA, 3. LADY SUPREMOS

9 MUGHAL GARDEN STAKES (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-30: 1. Altamonte (7) Indrajeet S 62.5, 2. Pastiche (6) Darshan 62.5, 3. Solo Prince (11) G. Vivek 62.5, 4. She's All Class (3) Srinath 61.5, 5. Foveal Vision (5) S. John 60.5, 6. Marco Polo (4) Salman K 60.5, 7. Fierce Fighter (-) (-) 59.5, 8. Dawn Rising (8) J.H. Arul 59, 9. Exalted Dream (9) P. Surya 59.5, 10. Phoenix Surprise (2) Hindu S 58.5, 11. Infinite Spirit (1) Adarsh 58 and 12. Sacred Creator (10) B. Harish 58.
1. SHE'S ALL CLASS, 2. SOLO PRINCE, 3. FOVEAL VISION

Day's best: **DE VILLIERS**
Double: **PINK JASMINE – THE INHERITOR**
Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

Two bronze, but 'it could have been better'

Indian teams left to rue the late slip-ups that turned prospective gold into consolation third prizes

In the radar: India 2 (Open) and India 1 women, except for a blip towards the end, produced stirring campaigns in the 44th edition of the global event. • PTI

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

"It could have been better."

Over the last 24 hours, almost every conversation involving the home followers of the 44th Chess Olympiad began by hailing India's first ever twin-bronze winning effort but invariably ended with the above refrain, laced with a definite tinge of disappointment.

A late slip-up for India 2 in the Open section and India 1 in the women turned prospective gold into consolation bronze medals.

At the breakfast table on Wednesday morning, K. Humpy's smile could not hide the disappointment of the top-seeded team not winning the gold.

The country's strongest woman chess player said, "We are happy to win the bronze but there is disappointment. We could have won the gold. We performed well against close rivals Ukraine and Georgia and should have beaten Poland.

Tough to take

"Going as leaders into the final round and losing to the USA was tough to take. If this defeat had come in the earlier rounds, it would have been okay. It was sad to see Tania and Bhakti, who won so many games, lose against the US.

"Not happy" with her own play, Humpy picked Vaishali for special praise. "Vaishali's victories on Board 3 played a big role in taking us to the podium. She is very strong and will be a Grandmaster soon!"

After the teen-quartet in India 2 won the final round for the bronze medal, coach R.B. Ramesh hailed the young side for living up to the expectations of being among the medals, but was quick to add, "It could have been better."

If the stunning 3-1 victory over favourite USA was the high point, equally, the heart-crushing loss to eventual champion Uzbekistan was indeed a bitter pill to swallow.

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian contingent's mentor, later described D. Gukesh's top-board loss as a "tragedy" and felt "gutted" by the 2-2 result in a match India looked like winning for the better part.

This 'loss' of a point meant India 2 went into the final round in third place, behind joint leaders Uzbekistan and Armenia. Eventually, they finished in that order.

Reflecting on Gukesh's match-equalising loss on the top board against Uzbekistan, Nihal Sarin, gold-winner on Board 2, said, "Initially we were all very upset. Of course, that was really painful, But it's okay, it happens. It made sense for Gukesh to try (against Nodirbek Abdusattorov). He was really in such great form. He was carrying our team.

"In that game, he was winning earlier. So I guess he just wanted to win at all costs and it backfired."

Eventually, seven individual medals, to go with the two team bronze medals and India 1 walking away with the Gaprindashvili Cup for being the best combined team in this Olympiad provided some joy.

However, in view of the consistency of the Indian teams which finished on the podium, any discussion involving the colour of the medals might still end with the common refrain, "It could have been better."

'Nice feeling being recognised'

Adhiban delighted that the Indians put up a good show

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MAMALLAPURAM

The one and only! Adhiban became the first Indian to win a team medal at the Olympiad twice. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

At the gym of Chennai's Leela Palace the other day, B. Adhiban ran into one of his favourite actors, Sivakarthikeyan. The Chennai-based Grandmaster requested a selfie with the Tamil film star, who obliged.

When this correspondent met Adhiban for an interview on the final day of the 44th Chess Olympiad, it was the amiable Grandmaster who was constantly being mobbed for selfies. He obliged every single one of them.

"It is a nice feeling being recognised like this," he tells *The Hindu* on the day he became the only Indian player to have won a team medal at the Olympiad twice. In 2014, he was part of the team that won the first ever medal at Tromso, Norway.

When he met Sivakarthikeyan, his India 2 teammate R. Praggnanandhaa was also with him. "Sivakarthikeyan recognised Pragg," he says. "That shows chess is getting more popular."

The past fortnight at Four Points by Sheraton alone will tell you as much. The Indian players were being cheered, mobbed by fans and chased by cameras.

"People ask me and other Indian players if there was pressure playing here at home in Chennai," says Adhiban. "I rather enjoy playing in front of so many supporters."

And he is delighted that the Indian players did well and made the fans happy. "Of course it would have been happier if we won gold instead of bronze - and we came very close –but it would have been very disappointing if we didn't win any medal," he says. "A lot of hard work and money has gone into hosting this Olympiad so we are all happy that we gave everyone something to cheer about."

Adhiban is also glad that the Tamil Nadu government announced a gift of ₹1 crore each for his team and the India 1 women's team, which also won the bronze. "Our chess players have done the country proud before too, but we usually are not recognised like this," he says. "₹1 crore is a lot of money, but what is even more important that we are being recognised like the champions from other sports."

Both the Indian teams were felicitated by the Tamil Nadu government at a function on Wednesday. "It was nice that we were being honoured like that," he says. "And we were happy to hear from a government officer saying that more would be done for chess."

Looking back at his team's campaign, he said the team was confident of a good show.

"I was very happy to be part of this dynamic young Indian team," says the 29-year-old, whose teammates were all teenagers. "D. Gukesh was phenomenal on the top board and Nihal Sarin was so solid on the second. Pragg was consistent and I think Raunak Sadhwani will become an even stronger player after his superb performance here."

Olympiad medal winners to compete in Tata Steel tournament

The event is set to witness top Indian and international players

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

The Tata Steel rapid and blitz chess India tournament 2022 was officially announced at the Leela Palace here on Wednesday.

The tournament will introduce a women's edition this time, with equal total prize money for both the open & women's editions.

The event, to be held from November 29 to December 4 in Kolkata, is set to feature top India men and women players like Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, R. Vaishali, D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, B. Adhiban, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, and Arjun Erigaisi.

Jeet Banerjee, Director, Gameplan Sports Pvt. Ltd. confirmed the participation of the Muzychuk sisters (Anna & Mariya) from the 2022 Olympiad gold-winning Ukraine women's team, Nana Dzagnidze from the silver-winning Georgia women's team, and Alina Kashlinskaya from the Poland women's team.

- Viswanathan Anand appreciates the introduction of the women's edition and the concept of equal prize money

Tata Steel Chess India ambassador Viswanathan Anand had a word of appreciation for the introduction of the women's edition and the concept of equal prize money.

Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President - Corporate Services, Tata Steel, said: "We are delighted to announce that this year's event will witness the launch of a women's tournament as well.

"What better year to start this than FIDE's 'Year Of The Woman in Chess.' The event will give young Indian talent the opportunity to play against top International Grandmasters."

'Feels like I'm evaluating a different Gukesh'

Anand believes women's chess should build on this momentum

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

First move: Viswanathan Anand, Tata Steel VP Corporate Services Chanakya Chaudhary, left, and AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan, right, during the launch of the Tata Steel India women's tournament. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Viswanathan Anand on Wednesday said that the most striking highlight for him in the recently-concluded Olympiad was the presence of many medal-winners below the age of 20 in two of the top-three teams in the open category.

"For me, the most striking fact is that among the three medal-winning teams in the open section, out of ten of them (Uzbekistan & India), eight were juniors.

"In general, I think India has a very good bench strength in men, because our India-I team still was in contention (for a medal) till the end."

Anand hailed the India women's performance and added that India women's chess should build on this momentum.

"In the women's section, I would say it shows the tenacity of Ukraine; the persistence of Ukraine, Georgia – the traditional powers. And of course, India's new ascent. India's performance in the women's section is a dramatic improvement.

"I think we need to build on this for the women. We have a certain momentum. There are some great players; we were able to field three women's teams and all of them did well."

Asked for his observations on Gukesh with respect to his Olympiad performance, the 52-year-old was effusive.

"It was a breathless performance! We couldn't keep up with him, especially when he was 8/8! And despite the really tragic loss (in round 10), he still finished with the top-board gold medal!

"And it's quite dramatic, because while I'm evaluating him, it feels like I'm evaluating a different chess player from the one I was talking about in, say, May! I don't even know when he entered the top-100, I think it was April, and now he's top-20! So, probably I will need to sit down and actually do the evaluation again, because it was just a breathtaking performance!"

He claimed Raunak Sadhwani's win against the USA's Dominguez Perez Leinier as "one of the best games in the tournament."

He added that he was "very happy" for Nihal Sarin's performance. "His level is very high."

The Pole who caught the attention of all

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MAMALLAPURAM

Oliwia Kiolbasa. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

At the 44th Chess Olympiad, when D. Gukesh was posting one win after another for India 2 in the open section, and grabbing the headlines, a 22-year-old from Poland was also doing precisely that. But somehow she got very little attention.

Of course, Gukesh was playing on the top board in the open section, while Oliwia Kiolbasa was competing on the third board in the women's event. They both won their first eight games - a remarkable feat at this level by any stretch of imagination.

Gukesh's dream run, however, came to an end in the ninth round, when he drew with Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. Kiolbasa, though, made it nine out of nine when she defeated R. Vaishali of India 1.

But in the 10th-round match against Georgia, she had to settle for a draw with Lela Javakhishvili. Worse was to follow in the final round match against Ukraine, when she blundered from a drawn rook-and-pawn ending and lost to former World champion Anna Ushenina.

Poland ended up losing the match 1-3, as the war-torn Ukraine emerged the champion and won the hearts of the entire sporting world. Kiolbasa, however, claimed the individual gold medal on the third board.

Her campaign may have faltered in the end, but she was undoubtedly one of the stars of the Olympiad.

Acing yet another test, belying age and experience

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

No pressure: Lakshya went into the competition with the right mindset and preparation. • AP

Success begets success. It has especially been true for young Lakshya Sen.

In a series of firsts starting December 2021, the 20-year-old has won a medal at the World Championships, clinched a BWF Super 500 title (India Open), reached the final of the All-England Championships and played his part in India winning the prestigious Thomas Cup.

On Monday, he added the Commonwealth Games singles gold, on debut, belying both his age and experience.

"It was my first experience at the CWG... I didn't put too much pressure on myself regarding results," said Lakshya, on his arrival at the Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, his training base, on Wednesday. "I just went with an open mind. Looking at the draw I had the confidence that I could do well.

"I had given myself three to four weeks to train for this tournament and the World Championships (starting August 22). I skipped a couple of tournaments including Malaysian and Singapore Opens. That period of training helped me and I am sure it will in the coming days as well."

Badminton at the CWG is a tricky competition. It isn't a patch on the standards that one would encounter at the Asian and World levels. But that brings with it the pressure to win, especially for players from India, considered one of the leading badminton nations. The way Lakshya managed this was the biggest takeaway, felt U. Vimal Kumar, his mentor and coach.

"I was most impressed with his temperament," said Vimal. "There were not very many great players. But he dealt with the expectations well. He could have so easily lost the semifinal. Again, in the final, he was in a tricky position, trailing. But he came through."

The fortnight in Birmingham also revealed a new kind of steeliness in Lakshya. Since the Thomas Cup triumph in mid-May, he had played just three competitive matches leading into CWG, partly to protect a dodgy shoulder. But at no point did he seem severely undercooked.

"These past few weeks' level is the perfect example," Lakshya explained. "When I was skipping a couple of tournaments, not playing for five to six weeks, I knew that I won't be as match fit. But I managed it. Now, I need to recover, keep this form and maintain the standards across weeks."

Central to this is the role of noted physio Heath Mathews, who was added to Lakshya's team at the nth hour, as part of the TOPS scheme.

"The expertise he brought was great. It gives you great confidence when someone like him says 'you are fit. your shoulder is fine'. He really helped me win the tournament."

Golden journey

Take a bow: The Indian team, which defied odds and clinched the top spot in the Lawn Bowls Women's Fours competition at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, arrived to a warm reception in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Sreeshankar sixth in Monaco

DIAMOND LEAGUE

SPORTS BUREAU

Commonwealth Games long jump silver medallist, M. Sreeshankar, was sixth at the Wanda Diamond League athletics meeting in Monaco on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old National record holder, the joint world No. 2 this year with 8.36m, opened with a mediocre 7.61.

His best effort of 7.94 came in the fifth round.

Cuban Maykel Masso won the title with 8.35m while Greece's Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou, who consistently touched 8.30m on Wednesday, and American Marquis Dendy, with an identical 8.31m, took the second and third spots respectively.

Ageless Sharath's outstanding performance

Paddler confesses that winning the mixed doubles gold with Sreeja looked a distant possibility before the Games

CWG TT

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

To win four medals, including three gold and a silver, at 40 years of age is not a common occurrence in sports. Sharath Kamal, India's evergreen paddler, achieved it at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games with an astounding performance that took his overall CWG medal count to a record 13.

Shining bright: Sharath displays his medals. *Right:* The table tennis contingent gets a rousing welcome in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Difficult schedule

The scheduling of the Birmingham Games, according to Sharath, was difficult, having had to play six matches on the second day and three in one session on the third day.

"This is the most number of matches I've played in the Commonwealth Games. It was very tiring, mentally and physically," Sharath told *The Hindu* over phone from New Delhi on Wednesday.

What held him in good stead was his meticulous preparation ahead of the Games.

"I knew these things would happen. During my training sessions in Chennai, I would do running, training, do the gym, swimming and practice. I was prepared," he said.

The appointment of psychologist Gayatri Vartak (of Sports Authority of India) at the last minute couldn't have come at a more appropriate time, Sharath felt.

"Given my personality, the sessions with Gayatri helped me handle the expectations. What I should think during the matches, how I should control my breathing and thought patterns... they all played a part in me doing well," he said.

On his rather one-sided victory over second-seeded Liam Pitchford of England in the singles final, Sharath said it was his ability to serve and receive extremely well that enabled him defeat the Brit.

Sharath confessed that winning the mixed doubles medal with Sreeja Akula looked a distant possibility before the Games, but the 24-year-old reigning National women's champion surprised him with the way she played in the summit clash.

One-lady army

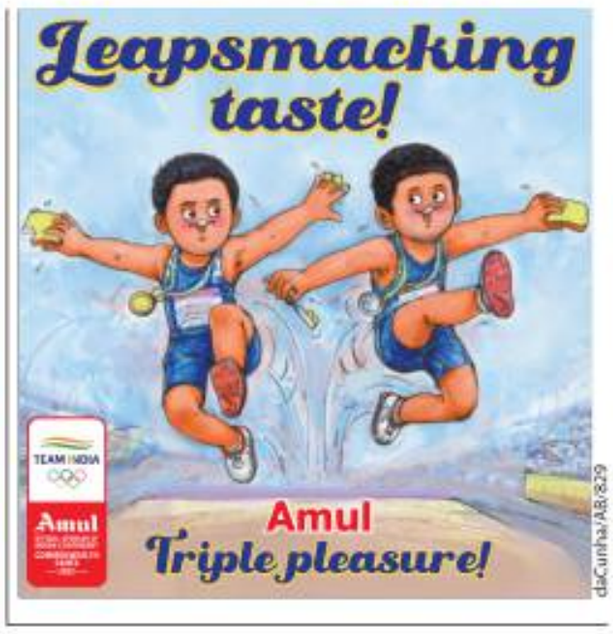
"Initially Sreeja was scared of playing with me. But, she got into the groove as the rounds progressed. In fact, in the final, Sreeja was a one-lady army. I just served and she finished the point.

"I didn't expect her to play so well. She was very unlucky not to win a medal in women's singles," he said.

Sharath revealed that he was stronger, physically and mentally, than what he was at the 2018 CWG.

Fitter, faster

"I was moving faster, had more energy [in Birmingham]. All because of the focused fitness regimen that I underwent during the pandemic. I wanted to be in my best shape and peak at the right time. And I did," said Sharath.



MI's teams named Emirates, Cape Town

CRICKET

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The franchises owned by the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in the forthcoming T20 leagues in the United Arab Emirates and South Africa have been christened MI Emirates and MI Cape Town respectively.

"For us, MI goes beyond cricket. It embodies the ability to dream, be fearless and foster a positive attitude in life," Nita Ambani, the RIL director, said in a statement on Wednesday.

"I am sure that both MI Emirates and MI Cape Town will embrace the same ethos and take MI's global cricket legacy to even greater heights!"

RIL, owner of Mumbai Indians, the most successful Indian Premier League franchise, recently acquired a team each in the Emirates International T20 League and the Cricket South Africa-backed T20 league. Both the tournaments are set to begin early in 2023.

Karun guides Warriors to thumping 10-wkt. win

MAHARAJA TROPHY

CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Skipper Karun Nair's unbeaten knock helped Mysore Warriors post its second win in three matches, defeating Hubli Tigers by 10 wickets on the fourth day of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament here on Wednesday.

Karun (92 n.o., 52b, 11x4, 1x6) led from the front with a stroke-filled innings that had fierce square-cuts, cover drives, and a few lofted shots in front of the wicket.

Stroke-filled: Karun's unbeaten 52-ball 92 contained 11 fours and a six. • M.A. SRIRAM

Karun and opening partner Nihal Ullal (48 n.o, 43b, 2x4, 1x6) batted steadily, adding 141 off 95 balls and powering their side to a 10-wicket win.

Earlier, put in, Hubli Tigers posted a competitive 140 for six in 20 overs.

An undefeated seventh-wicket stand of 32 off 14 balls between Tushar Singh (36 n.o., 1x4, 3x6) and Saurabh Srivatsav (3 n.o.), helped Hubli Tigers post a competitive140, but that proved inadequate.

Easy for Mangalore

In the second match of the day, S.J. Nikin Jose (85 n.o, 56b, 5x4, 4x6) and Amit Verma (41 n.o., 27b,2x4,3x6) helped Mangalore United defeat Shivamogga Strikers by eight wickets with two overs to spare.

The third win in as many games helped the side head the points table.

The scores: Hubli Tigers 140/6 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 38, Tushar Singh 36 n.o., Liyan Khan 26, Shreyas Gopal 2/22) lost to Mysore Warriors 141/0 in 15.5 overs (Karun Nair 92 n.o., Nihal Ullal 48 n.o.).

Shivamogga Strikers 155/8 in 20 overs (Rohan Kadam 64, Stalin Hoover 25, M. Venkatesh 3/24, Vyshak Vijaykumar 3/21) lost to Mangalore United 158/2 in 18 overs (S.J. Nikin Jose 85 n.o., Amit Verma 41 n.o., Macneil Narona 27).

Boult released from NZC contract

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON

Leading New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult has been released from his contract with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to spend more time with his young family.

Boult has taken 317 wickets in Tests and 169 in ODIs, and with his new-ball partner Tim Southee played a major role in the recent successes of a New Zealand team which won the inaugural World Test Championship and reached the finals of the last two ODI World Cups. The 33-year-old left-arm paceman has been in discussions with national cricket officials recently about the increasing burden of touring overseas with a young family at home.

Boult. • FILE PHOTO

"We respect Trent's position," NZC chief executive David White said on Wednesday.

Consolation win for Bangladesh

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HARARE

A batting-friendly pitch still proved too much trouble for Zimbabwe as Bangladesh got a 105-run consolation win in its third and final One-Day International on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe was bowled out for 151 at Harare Sports Club in 32.2 overs while chasing Bangladesh's 256 for nine. Opener Anamul Haque made 76 from 71 balls for Bangladesh and No. 6 Afif Hossain was 85 not out from 81 to set up the visitors' total.

The scores:

Bangladesh 256/9 in 50 overs (Afif Hossain 85 n.o., Anamul Haque 76) bt Zimbabwe 151in 32.2 overs (R. Ngarava 34 n.o.; Mustafizur Rahman 4/17).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bangalore Eagles posts win

Bangalore Eagles FC defeated Bangalore Dream United FC 2-1 in the C. Puttaiah Memorial football tournament here on Wednesday.

The results:

Bangalore Eagles bt Bangalore Dream United 2-1; ASC & Center bt MEG & Center 1-0.

Preetham scores century

Pranav Preetham scored a fine 103 for Vikram CC against Wilson Garden CC in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament. The match ended without a result, as rain played spoilsport.

The scores:

Friends Union (2) 74 in 19.4 overs (Karan 3/21, Pranav Aswath 3/9) lost to Jawans 75/1 in 11 overs (Srujan Nandan 45 n.o.).

Chintamani SA 232 in 44 overs (Vrishin Arinjai 62, G. Rishil 32, Tejas Krishnan 4/43) drew with Hammonds 68/2 in 13.4 overs (N. Vibhushan 26, K.S. Aditya 27 n.o.). Match called off due to rain.

Vikram 269 in 44.5 overs (Pranav Preetham 103, D.G. Nithin 41, Krithik Reddy 31, Ibrahim Ahmed 25, N. Rohan 3/32) drew with Wilson Garden 39/1 in 7.4 overs. Match called off due to rain.

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 43/3 in 15 overs drew with Vijaya. Match called off due to rain.

Vultures 247/5 in 43.1 overs (Gyan Somaiah 93, Aarav Mahesh 36, Tanav Prasad 60 n.o.) drew with Jolly Cricketers. Match called off due to rain.

Milind excels

Milind's 31 points helped PPC defeat Southern Blues 93-14 in the State Youth (under-16) basketball championship for boys.

The results:

Boys: M.N.K. Rao 63 (H. Ashwin 20) bt Vijayanagar 24; PPC 93 (Milind 31, Varun 13) bt Southern Blues 14; VNSC 66 (Ayush 22, Daksh 10) bt SAI (Dharwad) 35 (Dev Charan 17); Koramangala 54 (Vihan 22, Aryaman 10) bt Mysore 25 (Likith 13).

MCHS 51 (Krithik 20, Aditya 11) bt Devanga Union 34; BCBC 58 (Parth 20, Keerthi 11) bt Nationals 31 (Suman 14, Ronak 13); Vivek's 59 (Aarush Jain 23, Ashwin 10) bt Pattabhiram 38 (Krishna 20); Beagles 49 bt Merchants 14.

Girls: Aryans 34 (Thansh 11) bt Halasur 18 (Dhriti 12); JSC 53 (Aadhya 21, Sanjana 20) bt Bharath SU 39 (Lavanya 14); M.N.K. Rao 28 bt DYES (Vidyanagar) 15; DYES (Vijayapura) 64 (Sakshi 31, Shivabhai 21) bt Young Orions 23 (Ankita 11); Beagles 34 (Renetta 11, Akshiti 10) bt Orions 18; DYES (Mandya) 29 (Mandara 13) bt Nationals (Mysore) 13.

Aryan cracks ton

Surya Aryan (112) powered MES past Vidya Mandir in the REVA Independence Day T20 inter-collegiate pre-university cricket tournament.

The scores:

Jain (V.V. Puram) 255/5 in 20 overs (Pranav Babu 111, Rahul Reddy 56 n.o., Rohith Iyengar 3/9) bt Seshadripuram 127/9 in 20 overs (R.K. Vaibhav 35).

MES 220/4 in 20 overs (Surya Aryan 112, Veerendra Srinivas 65, T.N. Raghava 3/18) bt Vidya Mandir 184 in 18.5 overs (B.S. Vinay 48).

St. Joseph's 261/6 in 20 overs (G. Poovaiah 60 n.o., Dhyan Deepak 51, Dhwaneet 5/14) bt Ramaiah 58 in 10.2 overs.

St. Joseph's defeats Chinmaya Vidyalaya

St. Joseph's defeated Chinmaya Vidyalaya in shootout in the St. Joseph's Boys' High School Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial (under-14) hockey tournament.

The results:

Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial (u-14): St. Joseph's BHS bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya 0-0 (3-1 via shootout)

Centenary Shield (u-17): Vidyashilp Academy 4 (Aayush Arvind 2, A. Zidhan 14, Naman Data 10, S.G. Vihan 37) bt Greenwood High 0.

FC Agniputra gets direct entry

FC Agniputra has been awarded direct entry for the upcoming season of the BDFA Super Division football league, it was announced at an event on Wednesday.

FC Agniputra had previously competed in the 'C' division. The club will be coached by Subash Kumar and Jayaker. FC Agniputra Director Ibrahim Mohammed Connel stated that there are plans to open a club academy in the near future.

Bopanna & Middelkoop duo enters the last eight

Sania-Keys pair beats Cornet-Teichmann; Nagal in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop beat Karen Khachanov and Denis Shapovalov 7-6(5), 4-6, [10-6] in the first round of the $6,573,785 ATP tennis tournament in Montreal.

In the WTA event in Toronto, Sania Mirza and Madison Keys defeated Alize Cornet and Jil Teichmann 6-4, 3-6, [10-6] in the first round to set up a pre-quarterfinal against the top seeds Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens.

In the Challenger in Meerbusch (Germany), Sumit Nagal got past Andrea Arnaboldi of Italy 7-5, 7-6(3) to reach the quarterfinals.

Other results:

€45,730 Challenger, Meerbusch, Germany: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Karol Drzewiecki (Pol) & Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) 7-5, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Skander Mansouri (Tun) bt Yash Chaurasia 7-5, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Singles (first round): Ryota Tanuma bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath 6-3, 6-4.

Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-4.

$60,000 ITF women, San Bartolome, Spain: Singles (second round): Nadia Podoroska (Arg) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-0, 7-6(2).

$25,000 ITF women, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: Singles (first round): Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Anhzelika Isaeva 3-3 (retired).

$25,000 ITF women, Parnu, Estonia: Singles (first round): Zeel Desai bt Melanie Klaffner (Aut) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Lisa Mays (Aus) bt Akanksha Nitture 6-3, 6-2.

Shi Han (Chn) bt Nidhi Chilumula 2-6, 6-1, 7-5; Yao Xinxin (Chn) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-2, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Singles (first round): Prathyusha Rachapudi bt Gala Arangio (Ita) 6-2, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Singles (first round): Mayuka Aikawa (Jpn) bt Sanjana Sirimalla 5-7, 6-0, 6-4.